UN

UNITED
NATIONS

E

COLLECTION

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/ECE/1345
24 January 1997

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Fifty-second session
(21-24 April 1997)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-SECOND SESSION

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 3 p.m. on Monday, 21 April 1997

1. Inauguration of the Jubilee Session and Adoption of the Agenda

2. Strengthening of economic cooperation in the ECE region: Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe — E/ECE/1346, E/ECE/1347

3. Diversification of the form and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy — E/ECE/1348

4. ECE cooperation and partnership: — E/ECE/1349

   (a) Cooperation between the ECE and the OSCE

   (b) Economic cooperation in the Mediterranean

   (c) Cooperation and coordination of activities with other organizations and institutions and subregional groupings active in the ECE region

   (d) Cooperation between the ECE and the NGOs and business communities

GE.97-20247

5. The work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies: E/ECE/1350

   (a) Matters of common interest to ECE subsidiary bodies as well as those arising from the work of the subsidiary bodies which require attention or decision by the Commission

   (b) Programme of work for the period 1997-1998 E/ECE/1351

   (c) ECE proposed programme budget for 1998-1999

   (d) Resolutions and decisions of ECOSOC and the General Assembly which have a bearing on the work of ECE E/ECE/1352

6. Adoption of the programme of work/decisions

7. Election of Officers

8. Other business

9. Annual Report of the Commission

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

General

1. The dates of 21 to 24 April 1997 have been reserved for the fifty-second session of the Commission. In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the documents referred to in the Provisional Agenda will, wherever possible, be transmitted to Governments not less than forty-two days before the opening of the session, i.e. not later than 10 March 1997. The time allotted for the various items has been shortened in keeping with the decision contained in Chapter III of the Plan of Action to reduce the length of the Commission's sessions.

Policy Segment: Monday afternoon to Thursday morning inclusive (21-24 April)

Monday afternoon, 21 April: High Level Segment

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

Item 2: Strengthening of economic cooperation in the ECE region: Declaration on the strengthening of economic cooperation in Europe

2. The high level segment will commence with the opening address by the Secretary-General, as well as statements by a Head of State, the President of the Commission and the Executive Secretary.

3. These statements will be followed by a high level Round Table discussion devoted to "Avoiding break lines in Europe: technical answers to political problems".

4. The Round Table will be followed by statements of delegations on, inter alia, the reform process and how the new strategic directions to be adopted might promote a better integrated Europe. These statements should not exceed five-six minutes.

Tuesday morning, 22 April: High Level Segment

5. The Commission will continue to hear statements by those delegations wishing to speak under this item. The meeting will culminate with the adoption of the Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe (E/ECE/1346), as called for in decision 1 (1995-S).

Tuesday afternoon, 22 April

6. Under agenda item 2, the secretariat will make a presentation of the Economic Survey of Europe in 1996-1997. In view of the special nature of the Jubilee Session, as well as its reduced length, no general debate will be held on the main issues contained in the Survey. Rather, the presentation will be

followed by a second round table discussion on "ECE: forging partnerships between governments, enterprises and NGOs", involving participants from these various partners of economic cooperation.

7. Those delegations which wish to comment on the Survey or on the economic situation in their country may provide the secretariat with sufficient copies (70) so that this can be distributed during the session.

Item 3: Diversification of the forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy (decision C (51))

8. The Executive Secretary will present the report (E/ECE/1348) called for in decision C (51). Owing to the limited time available for consideration of this item, delegations are requested to refrain from making general statements but rather to limit themselves to specific observations and proposals for action.

Wednesday morning, 23 April

Item 3: (cont.) Diversification of the forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy (decision C (51))

Item 4: ECE cooperation and partnership

9. The Executive Secretary will present the report (E/ECE/1349) requested in decisions B (51), D (51) and E (51). Owing to the limited time available for consideration of this item, delegations are requested to refrain from making general statements but rather to limit themselves to specific observations and proposals for action.

Wednesday afternoon, 23 April: Programme and Coordination Segment

Item 5: The work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies for 1997-1998

10. The work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies will be discussed in the framework of the agreed reform proposals contained in the Plan of Action (E/ECE/1347). An exchange of views will be held with the Chairpersons of the subsidiary bodies on the implementation of the reform and the subsidiary bodies will be asked to adjust their programmes of work as necessary in conformity with the proposals and resources likely to be available in the 1998-1999 biennium. In this connection, the Executive Secretary will advise the Commission orally as to whether the proposed programme budget of the Secretary-General has been published and, if so, will brief the Commission on its contents.

11. The Executive Secretary's report E/ECE/1350 will provide information on the progress made in implementing decisions F (51), G (51) and H (51) concerning, respectively, cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development, transport, and energy. The same document will

provide a brief overview of key issues/important events in respect of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission.

12. The Commission's draft programme of work for the period 1997-1998 will be before the Commission in document E/ECE/1351, which will also contain other factual information regarding meetings, reports and documentation, as required by decision O (45).

13. The Commission will also have before it the Executive Secretary's note E/ECE/1352 containing information on relevant resolutions adopted by ECOSOC and the General Assembly since the close of the fifty-first session which request action by the Commission or have a bearing on its work.

Policy Segment: Wednesday afternoon 23 April

Item 6: Adoption of the programme of work/decisions

Thursday morning, 24 April

Item 7: Election of Officers

Item 8: Other business

Item 9: Annual report of the Commission

Closure of the session.

SUMMARY TABLE

Date	Agenda Item	ECE Documents
High Level Policy Segment Monday, 21 April: afternoon	1. Inauguration of Jubilee Session - Adoption of the Agenda	E/ECE/1345
	2. Strengthening of economic cooperation in the ECE region: Declaration on the strengthening of economic cooperation in Europe	E/ECE/1346 E/ECE/1347
	(a) Key note speeches by the Secretary-General, Chairman of the Commission and Executive Secretary	
	(b) High-Level Round Table on "Avoiding break lines in Europe: technical answers to political problems"	
	(c) Speeches by delegations	
Tuesday, 22 April: morning	2. Strengthening of economic cooperation in the ECE region: Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe (continued)	
	(d) Speeches by delegations	
	(e) Adoption of the Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe	
Policy Segment Tuesday, 22 April: afternoon	2. Strengthening of economic cooperation in the ECE region: Declaration on the strengthening of economic cooperation in Europe (continued)	Overview by secretariat
	(a) Presentation of the Economic Survey of Europe in 1996-1997	
	(b) Round Table on "ECE: forging partnerships between governments, enterprises and NGOs"	
	3. Diversification of the forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy	

Date	Agenda Item	ECE Documents
Wednesday, 23 April: morning	3. Diversification of the forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy (continued)	E/ECE/1348
	4. ECE cooperation and partnership	E/ECE/1349
	(a) Cooperation between the ECE and OSCE	
	(b) Economic cooperation in the Mediterranean	
	(c) Cooperation and coordination of activities with other organizations and institutions and sub-regional groupings active in the ECE region	
	(d) Cooperation between the ECE and the NGOs and business communities	
Programme and Coordination Segment Wednesday, 23 April: afternoon	5. The work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies for 1997-1998	E/ECE/1350 E/ECE/1351 E/ECE/1352
Policy Segment Wednesday, 23 April: afternoon	6. Adoption of the programme of work/decisions	
Thursday, 24 April: morning	7 Election of officers	
	8. Other business	
	9. Annual Report of the Commission	

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social

Distr.
GENERAL

E/ECE/1345/Rev.1
14 February 1997

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

PROPERTY OF PRINCETON

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Fifty-second session
(21-24 April 1997)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTY-SECOND SESSION

to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
starting at 3 p.m. on Monday, 21 April 1997

1.	Inauguration of the Jubilee Session and Adoption of the Agenda	
2.	Strengthening of economic cooperation in the ECE region: Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe and Plan of Action	E/ECE/1346 E/ECE/1347 + Corr.1 E/ECE/1354
3.	Diversification of the form and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy	E/ECE/1348
4.	ECE cooperation and partnership:	E/ECE/1349
	(a) Cooperation between the ECE and the OSCE	
	(b) Economic cooperation in the Mediterranean	
	(c) Cooperation and coordination of activities with other organizations and institutions and subregional groupings active in the ECE region	
	(d) Cooperation between the ECE and the NGOs and business communities	

GE.97-20394

5. The work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies: E/ECE/1350

   (a) Matters of common interest to ECE subsidiary bodies as well as those arising from the work of the subsidiary bodies which require attention or decision by the Commission

   (b) Programme of work E/ECE/1351

   (c) ECE proposed programme budget for 1998-1999

   (d) Resolutions and decisions of ECOSOC and the General Assembly which have a bearing on the work of ECE E/ECE/1352

6. Adoption of decisions

7. Election of Officers

8. Other business

9. Annual Report of the Commission

EXPLANATORY NOTES TO AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

General

1. The dates of 21 to 24 April 1997 have been reserved for the fifty-second session of the Commission. In accordance with the Commission's Rules of Procedure, the documents referred to in the Provisional Agenda will, wherever possible, be transmitted to Governments not less than forty-two days before the opening of the session, i.e. not later than 10 March 1997. The time allotted for the various items has been shortened in keeping with the decision contained in Chapter III of the Plan of Action to reduce the length of the Commission's sessions.

Policy Segment: Monday afternoon to Thursday morning inclusive (21-24 April)

Monday afternoon, 21 April: High Level Segment

Item 1: Adoption of the Agenda

Item 2: Strengthening of economic cooperation in the ECE region: Declaration on the strengthening of economic cooperation in Europe

2. The high level segment will commence with the opening address by the Secretary-General, as well as statements by a Head of State, the President of the Commission and the Executive Secretary.

3. These statements will be followed by a high level Round Table discussion devoted to "Building Cohesion in Europe: Technical Answers to a Political Aspiration".

4. The Round Table will be followed by statements of delegations on, inter alia, the reform process and how the new strategic directions to be adopted might promote a better integrated Europe. These statements should not exceed five-six minutes.

Tuesday morning, 22 April: High Level Segment

5. The Commission will continue to hear statements by those delegations wishing to speak under this item. The meeting will culminate with the adoption of the Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe (E/ECE/1346), as called for in decision 1 (1995-S), and the adoption of the Plan of Action (E/ECE/1347 and Corr.1) and the note on its implementation (E/ECE/1354).

Tuesday afternoon, 22 April

6. Under agenda item 2, the secretariat will make a presentation of the Economic Survey of Europe in 1996-1997. In view of the special nature of the Jubilee Session, as well as its reduced length, no general debate will be held on the main issues contained in the Survey. Rather, the presentation will be

followed by a second round table discussion on "ECE: forging partnerships between governments, enterprises and NGOs", involving participants from these various partners of economic cooperation.

7. Those delegations which wish to comment on the Survey or on the economic situation in their country may provide the secretariat with sufficient copies (70) so that this can be distributed during the session.

Item 3: Diversification of the forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy (decision C (51))

8. The Executive Secretary will present the report (E/ECE/1348) called for in decision C (51). Owing to the limited time available for consideration of this item, delegations are requested to refrain from making general statements but rather to limit themselves to specific observations and proposals for action.

Wednesday morning, 23 April

Item 3 (cont.): Diversification of the forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy (decision C (51))

Item 4: ECE cooperation and partnership

9. The Executive Secretary will present the report (E/ECE/1349) requested in decisions B (51), D (51) and E (51). Owing to the limited time available for consideration of this item, delegations are requested to refrain from making general statements but rather to limit themselves to specific observations and proposals for action.

Wednesday afternoon, 23 April: Programme and Coordination Segment

Item 5: The work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies

10. The work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies will be discussed in the framework of the agreed reform proposals contained in the Plan of Action (E/ECE/1347 and Corr.1) and the note on its implementation (E/ECE/1354). An exchange of views will be held with the Chairpersons of the subsidiary bodies on the implementation of the reform and the subsidiary bodies will be asked to adjust their programmes of work as necessary in conformity with the proposals and resources likely to be available in the 1998-1999 biennium. In this connection, the Executive Secretary will advise the Commission orally as to whether the proposed programme budget of the Secretary-General has been published and, if so, will brief the Commission on its contents.

11. The Executive Secretary's report E/ECE/1350 will provide information on the progress made in implementing decisions F (51), G (51) and H (51) concerning, respectively, cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development, transport, and energy. The same document will

provide a brief overview of key issues/important events in respect of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and Working Parties reporting directly to the Commission.

12. A note on the programme of work will be before the Commission in document E/ECE/1351, which will also contain other factual information regarding meetings, reports and documentation, as required by decision O (45).

13. The Commission will also have before it the Executive Secretary's note E/ECE/1352 containing information on relevant resolutions adopted by ECOSOC and the General Assembly since the close of the fifty-first session which request action by the Commission or have a bearing on its work.

Policy Segment: Wednesday afternoon 23 April

Item 6: Adoption of decisions

Thursday morning, 24 April

Item 7: Election of Officers

Item 8: Other business

Item 9: Annual report of the Commission

Closure of the session.

SUMMARY TABLE

Date	Agenda Item	ECE Documents
High Level Policy Segment Monday, 21 April: afternoon	1. Inauguration of Jubilee Session - Adoption of the Agenda	E/ECE/1345
	2. Strengthening of economic cooperation in the ECE region: Declaration on the strengthening of economic cooperation in Europe	
	(a) Key note speeches by the Secretary-General, Chairman of the Commission and Executive Secretary	
	(b) High-Level Round Table on "Building Cohesion in Europe: Technical Answers to a Political Aspiration"	
	(c) Speeches by delegations	
Tuesday, 22 April: morning	2. Strengthening of economic cooperation in the ECE region: Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe (continued)	
	(d) Speeches by delegations	
	(e) Adoption of the Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe; Adoption of the Plan of Action and the note on its implementation	E/ECE/1346 E/ECE/1347 + Corr.1 E/ECE/1354
Policy Segment Tuesday, 22 April: afternoon	2. Strengthening of economic cooperation in the ECE region: Declaration on the strengthening of economic cooperation in Europe (continued)	Overview by secretariat
	(a) Presentation of the Economic Survey of Europe in 1996-1997	
	(b) Round Table on "ECE: forging partnerships between governments, enterprises and NGOs"	
	3. Diversification of the forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy	E/ECE/1348

Date	Agenda Item	ECE Documents
Wednesday, 23 April: morning	3. Diversification of the forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy (continued)	
	4. ECE cooperation and partnership	E/ECE/1349
	(a) Cooperation between the ECE and OSCE	
	(b) Economic cooperation in the Mediterranean	
	(c) Cooperation and coordination of activities with other organizations and institutions and sub-regional groupings active in the ECE region	
	(d) Cooperation between the ECE and the NGOs and business communities	
Programme and Coordination Segment Wednesday, 23 April: afternoon	5. The work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies	E/ECE/1350 E/ECE/1351 E/ECE/1352
Policy Segment Wednesday, 23 April: afternoon	6. Adoption of decisions	
Thursday, 24 April: morning	7 Election of officers	
	8. Other business	
	9. Annual Report of the Commission	

UN

UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/ECE/1346
26 March 1997

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Fifty-second session
(Provisional Agenda item 2)

DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN EUROPE

We Governments meet today to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and to pay tribute to its achievements. We affirm its relevance and our commitment to provide it with fresh impetus, so that in concert with other regional and sub-regional organizations, it will be able to take up the challenges which the region faces at the dawn of the 21st century.

Our member countries share common values and aspirations as well as closely linked economic interests. We also share a history marked by phases of tension, *détente* and *rapprochement*. Throughout these developments, the Economic Commission for Europe has succeeded in adapting its work to fulfil faithfully its primary goal of encouraging and strengthening the commitment of all its member countries to harmonious economic relations.

Being part of the United Nations, having a European and transatlantic character as well as a source of economic and technical expertise, the Commission has proved itself a competent and effective forum where all countries, regardless of their size or level of development, can participate in discussions and decision-making on an equal footing.

The Commission has successfully carried out vital tasks of cooperation and integration. By negotiating and harmonizing conventions, norms and standards, it has contributed to preventing and reducing pollution, developing transport infrastructure and diminishing the risk of road accidents,

GE.97-20884

facilitating border crossings and simplifying international trade procedures. By drawing up guides for legal reforms and international transaction practices, it has helped the countries in transition to promote trade and investment within the institutional framework of a market economy. By publishing extensive economic analysis and statistics it has encouraged the exchange of views and the sharing of experience, leading to greater mutual understanding and contributing to policy convergence.

This work has yielded tangible results, such as the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution and its protocols; the safety and anti-pollution norms for vehicles; the TIR Convention, eliminating inspection of goods at the frontiers of transit countries; the Agreement on the transport of dangerous goods; and the electronic system EDIFACT to simplify administrative procedures for international trade.

We are pleased that countries outside the region and sometimes the entire international community have applied some of these conventions and norms, and we are convinced that, in its areas of competence, the Commission will continue to be a centre of excellence recognized well beyond the borders of its member countries.

The Commission's work now takes place in an unprecedented historical context, when all its members subscribe to the principles of democracy and the market economy. This major transformation is compounded by underlying trends that affect all the regions of the world: the accelerating liberalization and globalization of the economy, the increasing role of the private sector, the dynamism of regional and sub-regional groupings, the strengthening of individual freedoms and civil society, but also the dangers of marginalization and fragmentation.

In this context it is essential to foster forms of cooperation that promote economic prosperity for all member countries and respond to the needs of an increasingly interdependent world economy. This cooperation forges greater cohesion within the ECE region and contributes to bridging gaps between its sub-regions. We are convinced that the Commission has all the assets to render such a service in the future, just as it has done in the past. This is what has led us to reflect deeply on its strategic directions, defining activities which need to be dealt with in a multilateral framework and for which the ECE is the appropriate forum. We have done so, paying particular attention to the countries in transition and their economic relations with the Commission's other member countries, to changes in the region's institutional landscape, such as the development of the European Union, and to the ongoing reform of the United Nations.

The reform of the Commission, which is outlined in the Plan of Action annexed to this Declaration, meets the threefold aims of focus, flexibility and efficiency.

With regard to the first aim, activities have been discontinued, streamlined or strengthened. Accordingly, we have decided to reduce the number of programme elements by 60% and the intergovernmental structure from fourteen Principal Subsidiary Bodies to seven. These efforts have resulted in

identifying the following current areas of work of the Commission: environment; transport; statistics; trade, industry and enterprise development; economic analysis; energy; timber; and human settlements.

Our concern that the Commission should always be able to respond optimally to its members' needs has led us to introduce greater flexibility in its working methods. Consequently, we have decided to set up a consultative mechanism which will enable some activities to be discontinued and new ones to be launched in response to changes in the needs of member countries and in the realities of the region. We have also agreed on a structure for organizing activities to meet specific requests from sub-groups of member countries, in particular the countries in transition and the Mediterranean countries of the ECE.

Finally, the reform is guided by a desire for efficiency. We have made the intergovernmental structure of ECE more homogeneous and transparent, thereby simplifying decision-making processes and increasing the cost-effectiveness of ECE activities. In order to build upon proven advantages and to avoid duplication, we have decided to enhance cooperation with other regional and subregional organizations, such as the OSCE, the Council of Europe and OECD, as well as with institutions, in particular the European Commission. Similarly, we have decided to intensify the dialogue with the business community and civil society, both to benefit from their views and experiences and to broaden the impact of ECE work.

We are committed to applying this reform in all its strategic orientations and, thus, to strengthening the Commission as an instrument for economic cooperation, peace and stability in the ECE region.

Our decisions are fully in line with the current process of rationalizing the United Nations as a whole and of redefining its role and its programmes. By accepting this responsibility for the Economic Commission for Europe, we, its member Governments, are expressing our determination to contribute to the efforts being made by the entire international community to ensure that the Organization enters the 21st century with renewed strength, relevance, efficiency and credibility.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/ECE/1347
17 January 1997

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Fifty-second session
(Provisional Agenda item 2)

PLAN OF ACTION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

page

Introduction 3

Chapter I : AREAS OF WORK 3

Chapter II: CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUES 13

Chapter III: WORKING METHODS AND EFFICIENCY 15

A. Reforms of the Commission and the PSBs
1. ECE intergovernmental structure
2. Working Methods

B. The Commission

C. Programme Procedure

D. The secretariat

Chapter IV: RELATIONS WITH OTHER BODIES 21

GE.97-20202

TABLE OF CONTENTS (cont.)

page

Chapter V: RELATIONS WITH OTHER ACTORS 23

A. Business Community

B. Other non-governmental actors

Annex I Resource base by work area in percentage 25

Annex II List of programme elements with indicative resource allocations (%) 26

Annex III New structure of principal subsidiary organs 32

INTRODUCTION

The Plan of Action outlined below aims at providing a new thrust for ECE work in the years ahead. It is based on a vision that ECE will continue *to facilitate and strengthen the involvement of all member countries in harmonious economic relations*. This vision, which inspired the creation of ECE by the United Nations General Assembly in 1947, has to be maintained and placed in the new context created by the adherence of the whole region to the market economy system. As a forum where all member countries are represented on an equal basis, ECE is in a unique position to make that vision a reality by engineering its response to new realities and challenges in the region. Thanks to its capacity for change, ECE will remain an effective force for economic integration.

The willingness of member States to adapt the Commission to the dynamics of present and future changes, and the need to cope with a shrinking resources base, are at the origin of an in-depth review on ECE strategic directions and efficiency. An Ad Hoc Working Group has been established for this purpose 1/ and all those concerned have been involved in the reform process: individual member States - through a comprehensive questionnaire and a series of informal consultations -, the Principal Subsidiary Bodies - through a specific questionnaire and consultations with their respective Bureaux -, the Bureau of the Commission, and the Executive Secretary and secretariat of the Commission.

The Plan of Action, which provides a comprehensive framework for translating into action the strategic directions highlighted in the Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe, is the result of this broad and multifaceted process of consultations and discussion. Chapter I presents the general orientations and main changes both for the programme of work as a whole and for each particular area of work. Chapters II, III, IV and V deal, respectively, with cross-sectoral issues, working methods and efficiency, relations with other bodies, and relations with other actors. Each chapter outlines both the principles agreed upon and the concrete decisions taken to translate these principles into action.

CHAPTER I: AREAS OF WORK

A. Principles

The orientations and changes in the ECE programme of work are governed by the following eight principles:

1/ The mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Strategic Directions and Efficiency, as defined in Commission decision 1 (1995-S), is "to define strategic directions of future activities of the Commission, reflecting new realities in the ECE region and taking into account the needs and priorities of economic development of the countries in transition as well as budget capacity".

(1) *to focus on those areas of work where ECE has recognized expertise and proven advantages, and which are sustainable in the long run.* These are areas which call for a multilateral treatment within the framework of a neutral regional forum and which cover issues and activities of priority concern to large numbers of countries representing all geographical parts of the region;

(2) *to ensure that in these areas, ECE work has tangible and useful achievements,* all of which serve the objectives of economic integration and sustainable development through: (i) the production of reliable statistical data and well thought-out economic analyses; (ii) the development of conventions, norms and standards.

(3) *to be selective in terms of both the establishment of the intergovernmental bodies and the definition of the substantive programmes and activities.* This selectivity, facilitated by the application of the two previous principles, leads to a Commission comprising 7 Principal Subsidiary Bodies, representing a reduction from 14 to 7, whilst the total number of programme elements which amounted to 268 has been reduced by 60%;

(4) *to develop flexibility in the methods of work.* This flexibility allows existing activities to be terminated and new ones to be initiated at a pace in keeping with changing needs and realities; it will be implemented by: (i) requesting PSBs to define a precise programme of work and a time-frame for any new related bodies limited by sunset clauses (see Chapter III. A.1 below); (ii) establishing a Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities (see Chapter I. B.9 below), which will coordinate or organize seminars and workshops on issues of direct interest to specific groups of countries. These flexible methods of work will make it possible to maintain the existing networks of experts within the different ECE areas of work while ensuring an evolution in the issues addressed within these areas.

(5) *to respond to the needs and priorities of countries in transition.* All ECE activities are useful for countries in transition, as they are a factor of integration, and/or they facilitate the exchange of information, views and experiences between those countries and the other countries of the region. In addition, specific activities focused on countries in transition will continue to be included in the programme of work or developed through the Regional Advisers in all strategic areas of work, while others will be initiated through the above-mentioned Unit.

(6) *to strengthen cooperation with other international organizations active in the region, in particular regional institutions and subregional groupings.* As outlined in Chapter IV.(a) below, this cooperation has to build upon complementarities in terms of membership, mandate, issues and approaches to these issues, and also to avoid duplication, taking into account the proven advantages of the organizations concerned.

(7) *to further involve the business community in ECE activities particularly of interest to enterprises.* As highlighted in Chapter V.A below, strengthened relationships between ECE and the business community are mutually beneficial. The experience gained by ECE in key industrial sectors, legal aspects of commercial transactions, norms setting - in particular in trade facilitation -, investment promotion and support for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises constitutes a solid basis for a Government-business dialogue within the framework of ECE. This dialogue will take place mainly - but not exclusively - at special events held during the annual sessions of the Commission and through activities organized by the restructured and renamed Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development, and other PSBs where appropriate (see Chapter I.B. 4. below).

(8) *to ensure an incremental and transparent process of adjustment in the ECE programme of work, taking due account of programme requirements, resource availability and the need for efficiency gains.* While the PSBs are responsible for the selection of activities within their respective resource base, the Commission has a role of arbitration when there are competing additional demands from PSBs and/or significant changes in the overall ECE budget. In order to advise the Commission in that regard, a Group of Experts on the Programme of Work is established (see Chapter II.D below).

B. Programme review in ECE areas of work

Building upon Commission decisions O (45) and 1 (1995-S), the programme review derives, first and foremost, from the strategic directions of the Commission's future activities as outlined in The Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe and in the above-mentioned principles. It is also based on budget capacity: a total reduction of 10.5% of the resource base is anticipated in 1998-1999 as compared with the proposed budget in 1996-1997.

Taking into account budgetary constraints and in view of the strategic directions defined, the resource base for each area of work is outlined in Annex I to this Plan of Action.

Annex II specifies the resource allocation by programme element within each area of work. This allocation takes into account both the "sectoral" replies of member States to the questionnaire and the priorities identified by the PSBs at their last annual session. However, the list of programme elements by area of work should not be considered as definitely fixed. This list can be further refined and/or slightly revised by the relevant PSBs at their next annual session, within the resource base allocated to them.

This programme review outlines, by area of work, the strategic directions for the future, changes in resource allocation and operating mechanisms, in particular at the intergovernmental level, and the reasons for these changes.

The ECE areas of work are: Environment; Transport; Statistics; Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development; Economic Analysis; Energy; Timber; Human Settlements; and Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities.

(1) Environment

Environment is considered by ECE member States as a strategic area of work. It therefore needs to be further consolidated in the three major directions which have a long-term dimension:

(a) *"Environment for Europe" process*: this process involves all major organizations and institutions of relevance to cooperation and cost-effective work-sharing. The regular Ministerial Conferences provide the policy guidance and priority-setting required for this cooperation.

(b) *Environmental Conventions*: the negotiations on and implementation of binding international environmental legislation can benefit from important synergies, being serviced by the same secretariat. It is crucial to be able to use the staff flexibly according to changing workloads and to draw upon the experience from different legal instruments to the benefit of others and for input to the policy work in different intergovernmental bodies as appropriate.

(c) *Environmental Performance Reviews*: this area was included as a permanent programme element in the programme of work by the Committee on Environmental Policy in May 1996. A successful implementation of the programme requires some extra-budgetary resources and flexibility in the use of Division staff outside the EPR team, which has been introduced.

The additional resources assigned to this area of work will be used to strengthen activities in the following fields: environmental performance reviews; the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution; and preparation of the Convention on access to environmental information and public participation in environmental decision-making.

(2) Transport

The strategic importance of this area of work is based on the fact that increased economic development and integration of ECE countries require increased international transport and therefore increased intergovernmental cooperation. The overall objective of this cooperation is to develop coherent international transport networks and to facilitate and develop international transport while improving safety and environmental performance.

Along this strategic line, ECE focuses its work on the development of a wide range of international legal instruments, regulations for the construction of vehicles, and recommendations. These instruments provide a common technical and legal basis for the development of coherent international infrastructure networks, for the improvement of efficiency, safety and environmental performance of the transport sector and for the facilitation of border crossing in the ECE region.

ECE work in norms and standard-setting in this area of work is two-fold: (i) to develop new instruments and to continuously adapt the existing ones, according to the needs of member States and of the region as a whole in the transport sector; (ii) to support the effective implementation of the instruments adopted, particularly in countries in transition in order to facilitate their integration by bringing their transport systems in line with those in other countries of the region.

The additional resources assigned to this area of work will be used to strengthen these two orientations of work in the fields for which a majority of ECE member States have requested those resources, namely the transport of dangerous goods, customs questions affecting transport and road safety.

(3) Statistics

Statistics is a strategic area of work which needs to be further consolidated in the following three directions:

(a) to respond in an efficient and effective way to the priorities and needs of national statistical offices in the ECE region through the implementation of the Conference of European Statisticians' work programme which coordinates the statistical work of all other international agencies active in the region and determines a common set of countries-specified aims and outputs;

(b) to ensure that essential macro-economic and other statistics on the ECE region are collected, processed and made available both to users within the framework of ECE - in particular the Division for Economic Analysis and Projections and a number of PSBs - and to other international organizations relying on ECE for this data collection and processing.

(c) to address the particular circumstances and needs of economies in transition in the field of statistics through the regular work programme as well as through regional advisory services and technical assistance activities.

In view of these directions of work, the additional resources will be primarily used to strengthen the ECE capacity to produce a larger and higher quality body of statistics in a timely manner, especially in countries in transition, and to serve the work of the Conference of European Statisticians in priority fields of statistics such as national accounts, environmental accounting, coordination of international statistical work, and of course technical assistance to countries in transition in these and other fields.

(4) Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development

The work in this area has a twofold objective: (i) to contribute to the creation of a clear, predictable and supportive environment for industrial and enterprise activities; (ii) to assist in the integration of all countries, in particular countries in transition, into the European and global economy. In

order to serve these objectives, the three following main directions of work will be further developed:

(a) trade promotion, trade-related standards and the legal framework for promoting trade and investment, including commercial contract practices;

(b) trade facilitation through internationally agreed standards and regulations developed by the Centre for Facilitation of Administration, Commerce and Transport (CEFACT) as well as through standardization policies and modern trade techniques, especially UN/EDIFACT;

(c) the development of enterprise, including the promotion of small and medium scale enterprises, particularly in countries in transition.

The industry and enterprise development dimensions will lead to fostering activities which are at the interface of government and private sector responsibilities for ensuring an efficient and well-functioning market economy. This approach cuts across all types of activities as they relate to trade and investment, including in the field of industry which, in line with principle (6) of part A above, calls for cooperative relationships between governments and enterprises. In order to better reflect this cross-sectoral approach in the field of trade, the existing Committee will be renamed Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development.

The programme of work will benefit from the inclusion of issues and activities regarding the steel and chemical industries which were previously dealt with under the aegis of sectoral Working Parties. Taking into account both the priorities identified by the latter and the resource base now allocated to these activities, a number of programme elements could be retained, grouped around clusters of issues, for example: (i) collection of information about market trends and prospects; (ii) promotion of sustainable development; and (iii) policies of privatization and restructuring. These three cross-sectoral issues are relevant for other key sectors of industry which are also adapting to an increasingly integrated market-economy at the regional and global levels and they are directly related to the promotion of business, trade and investment. It is therefore expected that activities in steel and chemicals will contribute to, and benefit from, interaction with the other activities carried out within the framework of the Committee. In order to organize this interaction, the latter is requested to establish two Groups of Experts of the nature described in Chapter III. A. 2. below, one on Steel, the other on Chemicals, for a two-year period 2/; it is also requested to ensure that a member of each Bureau of the two former Working Parties join the Bureau of the Committee. In each case, the representative will consult all the other members of the Bureau of the former Working Party in order to make

---

2/ This fixed duration does not preclude the possibility of reinstating a group of experts in the same field, again for a limited period of two years, after careful evaluation of the work achieved and provided that the Committee is in a position to define a new precise programme of work in the light of this evaluation.

proposals for the preparation of the work programme of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts. This structure will make it possible to retain the existing valuable networks of experts, to define a clearly delineated programme of work and to maintain the extra-budgetary resources made available to this work by the private industry. It will in particular provide a framework for organizing, in cooperation with the newly established Unit, activities focused on industrial restructuring in transition economies.

Finally, in line with the directions of work outlined above, the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and Quality Development and the Working Party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies will, from now on, report to the Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development.

(5) Economic Analysis

ECE work in the field of economic analysis contributes to economic integration as it permits the exchange of views and information on complex economic problems and policies, thereby improving mutual understanding among countries of the ECE region, providing an international perspective for national policy makers and, when appropriate, facilitating the convergence of their policies. Work in this area has two main dimensions:

(a) *The Economic Survey of Europe*: this publication, considered highly useful by a majority of member States and many economists from both academic circles and the private business sector in the region, will be further concentrated on the analysis of economic developments and problems in the transition economies and on their economic and financial relations with other countries of the ECE region and the rest of the world. Furthermore, it is intended to increase the analyses of structural change and institutional problems and to provide more frequent analysis of macroeconomic developments in the transition economies. These general directions will be reflected in a new format of the *Survey*, namely an annual volume of three issues. The first issue of each volume will focus on developments in the ECE region in the past and coming year, with special emphasis on the transition economies and their relations with the rest of the world; it will also deal with selected structural and institutional aspects of the transition process. The second will address selected topics on other areas of ECE's work. The third will focus on the trade and external financial relations of the transition economies and will replace the *Economic Bulletin for Europe*.

All three issues will provide an overview of macroeconomic developments in the region, with emphasis on the transition economies, backed up by an up-to-date statistical annex on the transition economies. A regularly updated statistical database on the transition economies, constructed to support ECE's economic analysis, will be made available as soon as possible to other international organizations.

(b) Policy debates: A major objective of the *Economic Survey of Europe* will be to provide a focus for the discussion of economic problems and policies within the ECE framework. Along this line an economic

discussion will take place on the first day of the annual session of the Commission (see Chapter III.B. below), based on Issue No. 1 of the *Survey*. It will be preceded by a fully served seminar held just before the session to which economists from the government, academic and business sectors, as well as from other international organizations, will be invited. Extrabudgetary resources will, as far as possible, be sought in order to facilitate the representation of CITs which otherwise could not attend. This seminar, together with the debate on the first day of the Commission, will replace the Senior Economic Advisers. A number of possible topics to be discussed at the seminar will be proposed to the autumn ad hoc informal meeting of the Commission by the Executive Secretary after informal consultations with senior economic advisers in government and in academic circles.

In addition to the annual seminar, other workshops may be organized on economic issues in transition economies by the new Unit with substantive contributions when possible from the Division for Economic Analysis and Projections or from economic experts outside the secretariat.

Population Activities are maintained in the ECE programme of work but with a reduced resource base.

Most of the resources released by the abolition of the Senior Economic Advisers and the reduction of resources reallocated to population studies will be redeployed to extend the economic and statistical analysis of the transition economies, especially CIS countries and south-east European countries.

(6) Sustainable Energy

ECE work in this area is scaled down and refocused on a range of issues that cut across various dimensions of sustainability in the energy sector. Accordingly, the following directions of work are retained:

(a) *Sustainable energy policies:* this area will cover issues such as restructuring of the energy sector in the context of sustainable development, including energy reforms in central and eastern Europe, integration of energy systems, and significant new developments affecting energy demand and supply in the short and medium term, including pricing policies;

(b) *Energy efficiency:* this area will deal with standards and other measures aimed at promoting energy efficiency and conservation as well as the rational use of various sources of energy; the experimental dimension of this direction of work will be further developed through the "Energy Efficiency 2000 Project";

(c) *Gas:* the activities of this major source of energy for the region - both on the supply and consumption sides - are retained, covering issues such as restructuring in countries in transition, management of gas resources, trade and interconnections of gas networks in Europe.

In addition, a number of activities related to coal and its use for thermal power are retained. ECE activities in this field will focus on market adaptation of the coal sector in transition economies, as well as on the environmental aspects of coal power generation, including clean coal technologies.

ECE work on Energy will be carried out under the following intergovernmental structure:

- the existing Committee on Energy is renamed Committee on Sustainable Energy; accordingly it will refocus its work on issues related to the sustainability of the energy sector, as outlined in the direction of work (a) above.

- The existing Steering Committee of the "Energy Efficiency 2000 Project" will report to the Committee on Sustainable Energy;

- The Committee on Sustainable Energy is requested to establish an Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Coal and Thermal Power of the nature described in Chapter III. A.2. below, for a two-year period 3/, and to ensure that a member of the bureau of the former Working Party on Coal joins the bureau of the Committee on Sustainable Energy;

- The Committee on Sustainable Energy will deal with the issue of the interconnection of electric power networks in the region. Other possible activities in the field of electric power which are of interest to a more limited subset of countries may be organized by the newly established Unit, with the substantive support of the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

- The existing Working Party on Gas, to which the Gas Centre reports, is maintained and will continue to organize activities in the areas outlined in the direction of work (c) above. It will report to the Committee on Sustainable Energy.

(7) Timber

The work programme on Timber is maintained and sharply focused on the following core activities: regular collection and publication of statistics; Forest Resource Assessment 2000; indicators of sustainable forest management and monitoring of forestry assistance for countries in transition (both developed for the pan-European ministerial process on the protection of forests in Europe); review of forest products markets; and long-term outlook for the forest and timber sector.

3/ This fixed duration does not preclude the possibility of reinstating a group of experts in the same field, again for a limited period of two years, after careful evaluation of the work achieved and provided that the Committee is in a position to define a new precise programme of work in the light of this evaluation.

The Timber Committee will maintain its close partnership with the FAO European Forestry Commission, with which it has an integrated work programme on timber and forest issues at the regional level.

(8) Human Settlements

The programme of work in this area has been streamlined and refocused on a limited number of priority issues, namely housing reform, land administration, urban renewal and sustainable human settlements development. The ECE human settlements programme focuses on practical strategies, based on best practices and case-studies, and on disseminating related information. The housing profiles for countries in transition provide those countries whose housing sector has been examined with the tools for improving their overall performance on housing and closely related issues. Experts from the ECE region share their expertise on cadastre and land registration problems with countries in transition. This can help them establish their own systems for land privatization and land use. Cooperation with local authorities on changing consumption patterns and urban renewal issues opens up new possibilities for ECE.

(9) Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities

A Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities is established in the ECE secretariat. Its role will be to deal with issues and activities which, within the ECE mandate, respond to the needs of specific groups of countries - countries in transition, sets of countries belonging to the same sub-region or groups of countries spread throughout the region but having a common interest in a specific issue where ECE has recognised expertise.

The Unit will use flexible methods of work and its activities will mainly take the form of workshops and seminars. A number of issues in the fields of engineering industries and automation and of science and technology will be addressed in this form, on the basis of the priority programme elements identified by the former intergovernmental bodies related to these fields. The Unit will also deal with renewable sources of energy. The identification of other issues will be demand driven: a country can propose a topic and the Unit will assist in channelling this proposal to other possibly interested countries. Through their direct contacts with technical ministries of member States, Regional Advisers may facilitate this identification of topics of common interest to several countries.

Once topics are identified, the Unit will check the technical relevance through consultations with the networks of experts concerned. When necessary, it will also check with other organizations involved in the same area so that there is no duplication of work and activities. Once its value-added is confirmed, the envisaged seminar or workshop will be incorporated into a roll-over programme which will be regularly adjusted and adopted during the year by the Commission.

Seminars or workshops may be organized either within the resource base of the Unit or by benefitting from the logistical and financial support of the interested countries as well as from other forms of extrabudgetary resources.

Concerning the latter, the Unit will be responsible for approaching various sources of funding, including multilateral ones, in order to support its operational activities.

In addition to carrying out these activities, the Unit will have the role of supporting and, when necessary, coordinating all other operational activities undertaken by ECE's Divisions, including by the Regional Advisers, in response to special needs and priorities of countries in transition. In this respect, it will prepare a report both on its own activities and on those developed by the Divisions. This report will be submitted to the Commission every year.

C. Executive Direction and Management, Administration and Technical Support Services

This section of the work programme covers three main areas:

(1) The Office of the Executive Secretary, responsible for the executive direction and management which include the coordination of the work of the Commission, the relations with Governments, the coordination with, and reporting to, UN Headquarters - Secretariat, ECOSOC and the General Assembly - the relations with other UN entities and with non UN organizations and, finally, the external promotion of ECE and public information.

(2) The Administration which deals with all issues related to staff administration, budgetary and financial matters and programme performance;

(3) Technical services which provide support to all divisions in respect to electronic systems and which also supports ECE publications through graphics design.

CHAPTER II: CROSS-SECTORAL ISSUES

(a) Principles

Strengthening linkages among sectoral issues contributes to enlarging the bearing of ECE work and increasing its impact. Of particular importance are the linkages of the environment, trade and statistics areas with all the other ECE sectors of activities.

Introducing cross-sectoral concerns in all relevant activities is an integral part of the ECE strategic directions. Four concerns are particularly relevant for ECE work and have therefore to permeate all its activities. These are: the outlook for sustainable development, the mainstreaming of the gender perspective, the special concern for economies in transition, and the involvement of the business community.

Fostering intersectoral linkages and cross-sectoral concerns calls for cooperation and coordination both among PSBs and secretariat divisions.

(b) Mechanisms

Such cooperation and coordination require the following actions:

(i) at the intergovernmental level :

- all PSBs and their respective Bureaux should take into account the four above-mentioned cross-sectoral concerns when they prepare, adopt and implement their programme of work;

- when a PSB or one of its related bodies initiates an activity which is linked to other areas of work, it should associate the constituents concerned, in the most appropriate form;

- where necessary, joint meetings could be organized or joint ad hoc expert groups established, for a limited period. Proposals in this respect would have to be discussed and decided upon at the annual session of the Commission, where all PSBs are represented through their respective Chairperson.

- the PSBs' Bureaux are invited to review cross-sectoral concerns and inter-sectoral linkages every year in order to monitor decisions already taken and to envisage new initiatives.

(ii) at the secretariat level

- the Executive Secretary is requested to present a report every two years to the Commission on the effective integration of the four cross-sectoral concerns identified above into the ECE programme of work and studies;

- the Executive Secretary is also requested to make the appropriate arrangements within the secretariat in order to mainstream cross-sectoral approaches in the work of all divisions and to facilitate intersectoral activities.

CHAPTER III: WORKING METHODS AND EFFICIENCY

The objectives of the organizational reforms are threefold: (i) to secure an incremental process of streamlining programmes, focusing them on important issues of common interest and adjusting them to changing needs; (ii) to increase efficiency in the functioning of both the intergovernmental machinery and the secretariat; (iii) to achieve efficiency savings.

A. Reforms of the Commission and the PSBs

1. ECE intergovernmental structure

(a) Principles

The intergovernmental structure is streamlined in such a way as to reflect the refocusing of ECE activities and to best serve the substantive programmes of work as outlined in Chapter I above.

Furthermore, the intergovernmental structure needs to be made more homogeneous and transparent, in particular by eliminating those bodies which are confined to an intermediary role between specialized groups and bodies involved in policy discussion and decision making, and by changing as many PSB-related bodies as possible from working parties into ad hoc expert groups.

Based on these principles and on the ECE programme of work, the reformed intergovernmental machinery is outlined in Annex III.

(b) Mechanisms

- PSBs are invited to review the status of their related bodies and to limit them to two categories: working parties, which are of a standing nature, and ad hoc groups of experts which are established for a two-year period, with a precise programme of work and sunset clauses. PSBs are also requested to prepare a report on that review, which will be examined at the 1998 annual session of the Commission;

- the establishment by PSBs of any new related body should take the form of an Ad Hoc Expert Group. The Commission will decide upon any proposal from PSBs to establish a working party under their aegis. The request should be submitted with a strong justification of the need to establish an intergovernmental body of this type;

2. Working Methods

(a) Principles

Efforts already undertaken to reduce the length of the meetings of PSBs and of their related bodies have to be complemented by efforts aimed at focusing debates on a limited number of well-defined issues, allowing for an in-depth exchange of experiences and leading to policy conclusions, recommendations and appropriate actions.

In view of the limited resources, it is also necessary to reduce the number of formal sessions for all types of intergovernmental bodies whilst the practice of informal meetings at expert level on a specific issue should be further developed where agreed.

Finally, a simplification in the format and circulation of pre-session documents as well as in the reporting and follow-up procedures will serve the

twofold objective of increasing work efficiency and concentrating available resources on substantive activities.

b) Mechanisms

These principles lead to the following measures:

- the annual meetings of PSBs will be limited to three days; this objective should be reached within one or maximum two years as of April 1997. If, for specific reasons, a meeting needs to be extended, any additional session beyond the three-days limit should be informal;

- the responsibility of the Bureaux of PSBs will be strengthened in order to enable them to fulfil the following functions related to the organization of sessions: (i) the preparation of a well-focused agenda with the definition of objectives and the setting of time-allocation for each item; (ii) indication of principal topics where decisions are needed; (iii) delineation of themes of discussion of the session; (iv) monitoring and evaluation of the work since the previous session; (v) monitoring and coordination of activities in order to avoid duplication with the work of other relevant organizations; and (vi) proposing of priorities in the programme of work, listing, where possible, various options;

- in view of this increased responsibility, PSBs are invited to enlarge the composition of their respective Bureau so that it reflects ECE constituency in a balanced way; the enlarged Bureaux will meet as often as necessary to perform their new role. To be effective this proposal implies that extra-budgetary resources are made available to facilitate the participation of CIT members which otherwise could not attend;

- the secretariat is requested to prepare pre-session documents which are well-focused and as short as possible; such documents should be analytical and problem-oriented rather than informative; and an executive summary, together with recommendations or decisions to be taken, should be presented at the beginning of each document;

- at the end of each meeting, PSBs are invited to adopt a short report, listing the main conclusion points and decisions taken; this report will also reflect, where necessary, divergent points of views on important issues when consensus has not been reached. For substantive topics prompting an exchange of experiences and/or a policy debate, the secretariat is requested to summarize the discussion after the meeting and to consult the Bureau before finalizing this summary and circulating it to member States.

B. The Commission

(a) Principles

The sessions of the Commission have the following objectives:

- to review PSBs work and provide orientations for the preparation of the biennial programme budget;

- to allow for an annual exchange of views among member States, partner institutions, the business community and NGOs on strengthening cooperation within the ECE region; as part of this exchange of views, a debate will be organized on a major economic issue pertinent to all countries of the region.

- to allow for a dialogue with the Chairpersons of PSBs on cross-sectoral concerns and intersectoral issues and activities;

(b) Mechanisms

- as of 1998, the length of the annual session of the Commission will be reduced to 3/4 days;

- accordingly the annual session will include the following elements: (i) a debate on a major economic issue pertinent to all countries of the region and to the integration of the region (one day); (ii) a dialogue with the chairpersons of the PSBs on cross-sectoral concerns and intersectoral issues and activities (half day); (iii) discussion with sub-regional groupings (half day); (iv) dialogue with the Business community (depending on decisions taken by the Commission in this respect) (half day); (v) election of the Bureau and adoption of the report;

- the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Bureau will formulate the provisional agenda, taking into account the revised structure of the annual session;

- the secretariat in turn will review the number and format of the documents accordingly;

- in order to allow for an in-depth discussion of policy issues, member States are invited to provide information and analysis in advance and the secretariat is requested to circulate them through electronic forms of communication;

- the report of the annual session will be adopted by the Commission at the end of the meeting. It will be restructured and shortened so as to contain the listing of the decisions taken and of the specific actions to be undertaken by the Commission; it will also reflect, where necessary, divergent points of view when consensus has not been reached. For the part of the session devoted to the economic policy debate, the secretariat is requested to summarize

the discussion after the meeting and to consult the Bureau before finalizing this summary and circulating it to member States.

C. Programme Procedure

(a) Principles

The adjustment of the programme of work of the Commission must be implemented through an incremental and transparent process aimed at responding to new requests and emerging priorities of member States, adapting to new developments in the region and taking into account possible changes in the resource base.

The PSBs have the primary responsibility for this adjustment in their respective area of work as they are the best placed to determine their own priorities.

The Commission has an oversight responsibility which it exerts by defining the substantive orientations of the overall programme of work, by determining and updating the balance among the subprogrammes within a given resource base, and by arbitrating among competing requests from PSBs when required.

The Commission will adjust its work programme at least every two years, prior to the preparation of the next programme budget, thus providing overall guidance to the Executive Secretary and ensuring the desired link to the programme budget process. In order to advise the Commission on the regular programme adjustments to operate, a Group of Experts on the Programme of Work, open to all ECE member States, is established. It will perform its task according to the mechanism outlined below.

(b) Mechanisms

PSBs will decide on their work programmes, defining for all activities concrete objectives and a timetable for completion. PSBs will be assisted by the secretariat which will advise on the human resources necessary to implement such activities.

New activities to be undertaken without the possibility of being financed by extrabudgetary resources will be offset by the termination of other activities requiring a similar level of resources.

PSBs will rank all activities initiated or underway in order of priority. They will indicate, if any, other important activities which they would wish to undertake beyond the existing programme and which would therefore require additional resources.

The Group of Experts on the Programme of Work will have the following functions:

(i) to examine the programmes of work of the PSBs and to advise on arbitration between the competing additional demands from PSBs when they imply significant shifts among these programmes;

(ii) to advise on how to adjust the programme of work according to possible changes in orientation, to anticipated changes in the level of resources for the next biennium or, in respect of the current biennium, to unexpected changes of such a magnitude that it would have a significant impact on the existing programme of work.

The secretariat will assist the Group of Experts by providing the following information:

(i) an indication, if available, of any increase/decrease in the level of the budget for the next biennium;

(ii) the PSBs programmes of work and the breakdown of the resource allocation both among them and within each work area;

(iii) an indication by PSBs of additional requests together with an estimate by the secretariat of the human resource implications of these requests.

The Group of Experts will meet every two years in the Autumn, prior to the preparation of the programme budget submission by the Executive Secretary. On the basis of the priorities identified by the PSBs, their possible additional requests and the information on resources provided by the secretariat, the Group of Experts will formulate recommendations on adjustments and shifts in the ECE programme of work.

These recommendations will be forwarded as a draft decision to an Ad Hoc Informal Meeting of *the Commission* which, for this specific purpose, will convert into a formal session. Once the decision is adopted, the Commission will request the *Executive Secretary* to take it into account in preparing his programme budget submission for the next biennium and, to the extent possible, introduce transitional measures immediately.

The Executive Secretary is requested to prepare a note on the feasibility of moving the date of the annual session from April to November and on the advisability of holding the session every two years.

In addition, the Group of Experts may be convened by the Bureau in the following circumstances:

(i) prior to each annual session, to prepare other draft decisions which are deemed essential for the functioning of the Commission;

(ii) at any time in the year when important unexpected changes in the resource base are decided by the relevant bodies of the General Assembly or at the request of the Executive Secretary;

All meetings of the Group of Experts will operate in an informal manner.

As of 1998, all PSBs are requested to hold their respective annual session during the period January-September. Subsequently, the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work will hold its first autumn session for preparing recommendations prior to the submission of the programme budget 2000-2001.

D. The secretariat

(a) Principles

A secretariat capable of serving its member countries has the following characteristics:

- It is efficient and productive;
- Its staff are motivated and cooperate among themselves;
- Its working methods and distribution of resources are transparent;
- Its resources are allocated in a manner commensurate with the work programme; reciprocally member States should make sure that the work programme corresponds to staffing possibilities.

(b) Mechanisms

Executive Secretary

- The Executive Secretary will structure the secretariat in a manner commensurate with the work to be done as decided upon by member Countries and will provide the overall guidance necessary to implement the programme of work.

- The Executive Secretary will brief member States on a regular basis on the resources approved or likely to be approved by the General Assembly for the implementation of the Commission's programme. He will also provide regular information concerning the status of vacant posts, redeployment of resources and any measures taken to meet unforeseen developments, including budgetary reductions.

Member Countries

- Member countries will support the Executive Secretary's efforts to adapt the staff allocation to changes in the programme of work.

- Member countries will allow the Executive Secretary to exercise his authority and judgement in the recruitment of staff.

CHAPTER IV: RELATIONS WITH OTHER BODIES

(a) Principles

The relationships of ECE with other bodies are governed by the following principles:

- to consolidate cooperation with organizations which have a similar membership to ECE and a complementary mandate. This applies to OSCE: as demonstrated by the ongoing cooperation between the two institutions, ECE is in a privileged position to provide substantive contributions to the economic dimension of OSCE activities. This also applies to the Council of Europe and its Parliamentary Assembly : their membership is getting increasingly closer to that of ECE and the economic focus of the latter is complementary to the mandate of the former which primarily covers human rights, democracy and social issues;

- to seek better cooperation and synergies with institutions or organizations which, within the ECE region, have a more limited membership, with a long-standing and strong secretariat. This applies, in particular, to ECE relationships with OECD in such areas as statistics, environment, transport, energy, economic analysis, and trade and enterprise development.

- to strengthen cooperation with institutions which, so far, are more of a political than a technical nature. Experience shows that, in its areas of competence, ECE is well equipped to support specific activities initiated by sub-regional groupings - inter alia, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the Central European Initiative, the Baltic Council of Ministers, etc. - whilst, for their part, the latter help in making the products of ECE, particularly on norms and conventions, better known;

- to develop further the cooperation with organizations which have specific activities or projects in the same fields of work and in the same countries as ECE, on the basis of comparative advantages. Along this line, ECE provides its technical and legal expertise for activities supported by financing institutions such as EBRD, World Bank, European Investment Bank and UNDP;

- to avoid duplication on the part of ECE as well as on the part of other regional organizations. The risk of duplication relates particularly to well-circumscribed activities which are not multifaceted and which have a strictly technical nature;

- to strengthen cooperation with the European Community through the European Commission, taking due account of the specific nature of the European Union and of its role in the fields of economic assistance and integration. The ECE will seek to further develop cooperation with the European Commission within the framework of

the PHARE and TACIS programmes. Furthermore, cooperation will also be sought in such areas as statistics, environment, transport, energy, economic analysis, and norms - and standards-setting.

- to promote exchange of experiences and cooperation among UN organizations active in the region. Within its mandate, ECE is well-placed to play this role on cross-sectoral concerns and those sectoral areas where it has regular work and recognized expertise, in particular for the preparation of, and the follow-up to, UN Global Conferences for which regional commissions have been assigned tasks by member States.

(b) Mechanisms

Building up cooperation on the basis of complementarities among regional and sub-regional organizations and institutions whilst avoiding duplication of activities is primarily the responsibility of member States. In order to reach this objective, the following actions are required:

- the Bureaux of PSBs are invited to conduct a periodic review of the work programme of other international organizations and institutions active in the same area; these reviews should lead to an appropriate division of tasks through programme adjustment and to various forms of cooperation such as joint programmes of work in areas of common interest, joint activities and joint products;

- in order to facilitate the review, PSB Bureaux are invited to consider the possibility of securing the participation in their meetings of senior staff from major international organizations involved in the same area of work, as is already the case for the Conference of European Statisticians;

- when a new activity is decided, the PSB concerned should explore all possibilities to cooperate with other relevant organizations;

- PSBs should establish a system by which emerging duplication due to new activities initiated by other bodies would be quickly identified and notified; consultations on the nature and content of the activity concerned should then lead to agreements concerning the location of this activity and, if appropriate, the division of labour and cooperation required;

- the PSBs concerned and their respective Bureaux are invited to explore ways of further improving the division of labour among ECE and other bodies within the framework of the "Environment for Europe process" and in the field of transport where ECE is involved together with OECD, ECMT and the European Commission; the Chairpersons of these PSBs would subsequently report on proposed mechanisms to the Commission;

- the Executive Secretary is requested to have regular consultations with OSCE and to report to the Commission on the modalities of the

ECE contribution in the following fields: (i) the economic dimension of security; (ii) providing analytical and technical support to the Economic Forum and to seminars/workshops convened by OSCE on economic issues;

- taking into account resource implications, the ECE secretariat is requested to develop regular contacts with its counterparts in other organizations through electronic communication, intersecretariat meetings, networks of focal points and cross-participation in meetings and seminars.

CHAPTER V: RELATIONS WITH OTHER ACTORS

A. Business Community

(a) Principles

Strengthening relationships with the business community is an integral part of the efforts made to adapt ECE activities to the changing realities of the region, including the emergence of the business sector in countries in transition.

These relationships are mutually beneficial: on the one hand, the business community has an opportunity to express its concerns and to discuss policies issues with member States, in particular with countries in transition, as well as to be involved in ECE sectors which are of interest to enterprises; on the other hand, ECE can get new ideas and fresh impetus on a number of issues, to gain support for some of its activities and to make its products better known and used.

ECE cooperation with the business community has to develop within a transparent framework and in compliance with the principles of neutrality and objectivity attached to the international public service.

(b) Mechanisms

- PSBs are invited to promote various forms of involvement of the business community in their respective programme of activities. This can be implemented through, inter alia, participation in relevant meetings, support to concrete projects and development of specific outputs such as publications or information material;

- The secretariat is requested to initiate a comparative study on the process of establishing national Government-Industry Advisory Councils in countries in transition, based on the experience already gained in this respect;

- An ad hoc working group composed of member States and secretariat will be set up in order to consider ethical guidelines governing relationships with the business community; the group should : (i) take stock of the rules which have already been established by the United Nations for their relationships with the private sector;

(ii) define guidelines for ensuring transparency and equal treatment of enterprises in their involvement in ECE activities;
(iii) make recommendations on the participation of the business community in national delegations at intergovernmental bodies;

- The Executive Secretary is invited to develop cooperation with the International Chamber of Commerce for further developing cooperation with the enterprise sector.

B. Other non-governmental actors

(a) Principles

A number of professional and technical associations, most of them having consultative status with ECOSOC, participate in the work of PSBs and some of their related bodies. NGOs dealing with cross-sectoral concerns, such as sustainable development and the advancement of women, are also involved in activities of the Commission, while relationships with academic institutions are developed in the field of economic analysis. All of these non-governmental entities bring approaches and inputs that are complementary to those provided by Governments and the enterprise sector on issues addressed by ECE.

(b) Mechanisms

The Commission and its PSBs are invited to explore ways further to develop synergies with NGOs, professional associations and academic institutions, including with those non-governmental actors supporting various dimensions of the transition process in the ECE strategic areas of work.

ANNEX I

RESOURCE BASE BY WORK AREA IN PERCENTAGE

Work Areas	Allocation on basis of reduced resource base (2376 months) 4/ Resource percentage
A. EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES	
Office of the Executive Secretary	5.5
Administration	4
Technical support services	4.5
B. ENVIRONMENT	15
C. TRANSPORT	16
D. STATISTICS	11 5/
E. ECONOMIC ANALYSIS	17.5 6/
F SUSTAINABLE ENERGY	
Sustainable energy	3.25
Gas	1.25
G. TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT	
Trade facilitation, EDIFACT and agricultural standards	7
Trade, industry and enterprise development	8 7/
H. TIMBER	3
I. HUMAN SETTLEMENTS	2
J. SPECIAL UNIT	2
Total	**100**

4/ Corresponds to a total of 2376 work months. If the translation of work months into dollar terms provides for the possibility of additional posts within the 1998-1999 budgetary ceiling currently allocated to ECE under the regular budget, those additional posts will be allocated to areas in need of strengthening.

5/ This figure is limited to resources in support of the Conference of European Statisticians, and therefore does not include those resources used to support statistical work in other Divisions.

6/ Of which 6 per cent relates to the maintenance of statistical data bases in CIT countries.

7/ This area includes the chemical industry and steel

ANNEX II

LIST OF PROGRAMME ELEMENTS WITH
INDICATIVE RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS (%) 8/

	Programme element	PSB	Resources %
A.	**EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES**		
1	Service of the Commission and relations with governments	Commission	} 5.5
2	Executive Direction and Management		
3	Coordination with the UN headquarters and other UN entities	ECOSOC	
4	Coordination with non UN organizations	Commission	
5	External Promotion of ECE and Public information	--	
6	Administration	--	4.0
7	Information system support (these staff are located in Statistical Division and report to the Director of the Statistical Division)	--	} 4.5
8	Cartographic (these staff are located in Statistical Division and report to the Director of the Statistical Division)	--	
B.	**ENVIRONMENT**		**(15.0)**
9	Implementation of the Environmental Programme for Europe	CEP	0.8
10	Regional promotion of Agenda 21	CEP	0.3
11	European energy conservation strategy a/	CEP	0.3
12	Environment and economics	CEP (JWG)	0.5
13	Sustainable consumption patterns	CEP	0.3
14	Preparations for the 1998 Ministerial Conference	SO	0.7
15	Environmental performance reviews	CEP	4.4
16	Preparation of a draft convention on access to environmental information and public participation in environmental decision-making	CEP/WG	0.7
17	Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context b/	CEP/MS	0.7

8/ As indicated in Chapter I of the Plan of Action, this list of programme elements is indicative and can be further refined by the relevant PSBs at their next annual session, within the resource base allocated to them.

	Programme element	PSB	Resources %
18	Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes c/	CEP/WP	0.7
19	Convention on the Transboundary Effects on Industrial Accidents	CEP/MS	0.7
20	Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution	EB	4.6
21	Support to the regional environmental conventions	CEP	0.3
a/ Subject to approval by CEP. b/ Convention will enter into force in early 1997. Thereafter the Meeting of Signatories will cease to exist. c/ Convention entered into force on 6 October 1996. Thereafter the Working Party on Water Problems ceased to exist.			
C.	**TRANSPORT**		**(16.0)**
22	Review of general trends with regard to transport development and transport policy and analysis of specific transport economic issues a/	ITC/WP.5	0.6
23	Road transport infrastructure b/	ITC/SC.1	0.5
24	Harmonization of requirements concerning international road transport and facilitation of its operations	ITC/SC.1	0.4
25	Road transport safety	ITC/SC.1/ WP.1	1.4
26	Regulations for the Construction of Vehicles	ITC/WP.29/ GR's	3
27	Rail transport infrastructure c/	ITC/SC.2	0.5
28	Harmonization of requirements concerning international railway transport, including rail safety, and facilitation of its operations	ITC/SC.2	0.4
29	Inland waterway infrastructure	ITC/SC.3	0.4
30	Harmonization of requirements concerning international inland waterway transport, including inland water transport safety, and facilitation of its operations	ITC/SC.3/WP.3	0.4
31	Regulations on the transport of dangerous goods by road, rail, inland waterways and combined transport d/	ECOSOC/CETDG ITC/WP.15; IWG	4
32	Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment	PREPCOM	0.8
33	Promotion of combined and multimodal transport	ITC/WP.24	0.8
34	Harmonization and simplification of Customs and other requirements for border crossing concerning all modes of inland transport	ITC/WP.30	1.5
35	Harmonization of regulations and standards relating to the international transport of perishable foodstuffs and facilitation of its operation	ITC/WP.11	0.2

	Programme element	PSB	Resources %
36	Methods of collection and definition of statistics on inland transport and road traffic accidents	ITC/WP.6	0.3
37	Publication of statistical information in the field of transport	ITC/WP.6	0.6
a/ Activities related to workshops are devoted to the concerns of CITs. b/ Activities related to the TEM project take into consideration the concerns of CITs. c/ Activities related to the TER project take into consideration the concerns of CITs. d/ One third of the resources indicated are for the servicing of the ECOSOC Committee and Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods.			
D.	**STATISTICS**		**(11.00)**
38	Promotion and coordination of multilateral statistical work	CES	0.85
39	Management and policy issues of concern to presidents of NSOs	CES	0.7
40	Transition countries in the ECE region	CES	1.1
41	Relations with countries outside the ECE region (including countries in the Mediterranean region)	CES	0.05
42	Management of information technology infrastructure	CES	0.8
43	Statistical data collection and processing	CES	0.9
44	Dissemination and interchange of statistical information	CES	0.9
45	Geographical and regional data	CES	0.2
46	Implementation of the system of national accounts	CES	0.4
47	Transport	CES	0.6
48	Price statistics, including purchasing power parities	CES	0.2
49	Agricultural statistics	CES	0.2
50	Business registers and administrative records in support of economic statistics	CES	0.3
51	Gender statistics	CES	0.1
52	Registers and administrative records for social and demographic statistics	CES	0.3
53	Population and housing censuses	CES	0.5
54	Health statistics	CES	0.1
55	Demographic statistics (including projections, migration and fertility)	CES	0.3
56	Standards and frameworks for environmental data and indicators	CES	0.4
57	Environmental database development and dissemination	CES	0.3
58	Dissemination of statistical data by the secretariats	CES	1.2

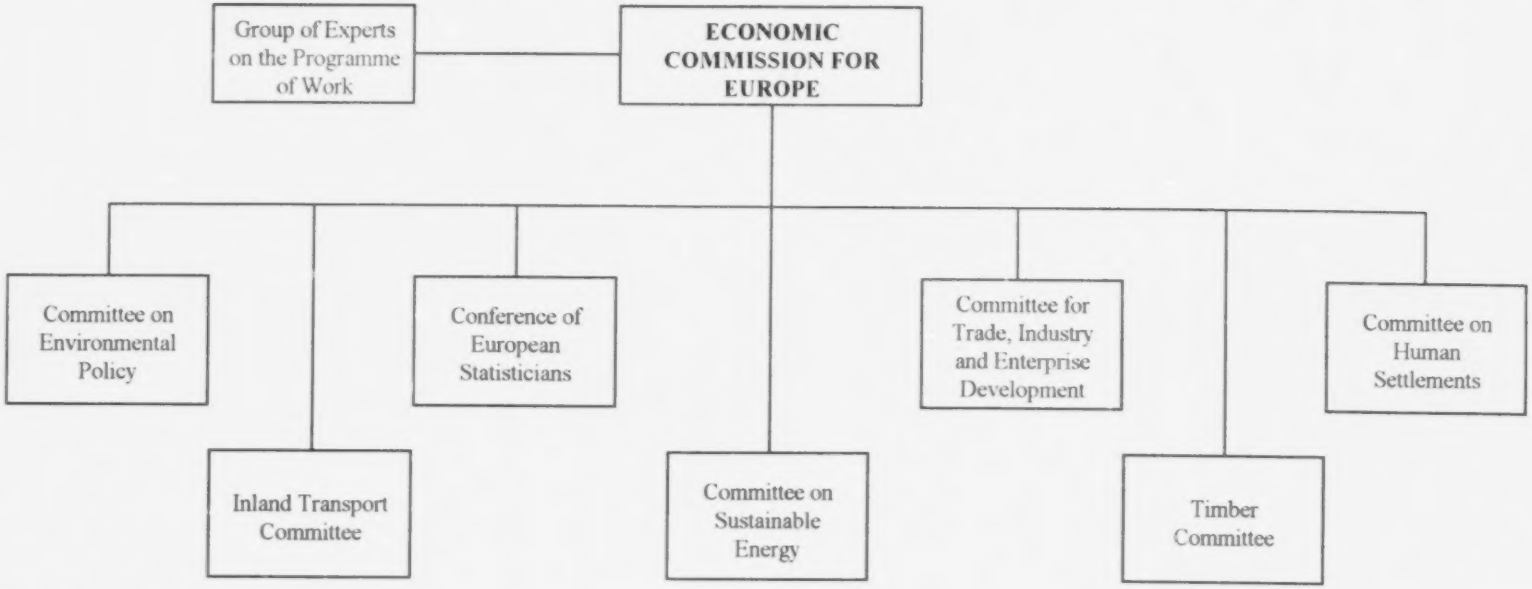
	Programme element	PSB	Resources %
59	Statistical support for other activities of the secretariats	CES	0.6
60	PEs in which the CES will be inactive in the next two years (21 PEs)	CES	-
E.	**ECONOMIC ANALYSIS**		**(17.5)**
61	Exchange of information on the development of national economies and on policies and programmes, and current growth conditions and their long term implications	Commission	0.5
62	Workshops et al.	Commission	0.5
63	Review of economic developments, problems and prospects in the ECE region	Commission	16.0
64	Population analysis	CES	0.5
F.	**TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**		**(15)**
	Trade Facilitation, EDIFACT and Agricultural Standards		**(7)**
65	Data elements and automatic data interchange	TRADE/WP.4	3.1
66	International trade procedures and documentation	TRADE/WP.4	2.9
67	Standardization of perishable produce and quality development	WP.1	1.0
	Trade, Industry and Enterprise Develpment		**(8)**
68	Preparation and revision of Guides relating to international commercial transactions	TRADE/WP.5	1.3
69	Organization of seminars and workshops	TRADE	1.3
70	Analysis of recent and perspective trade trends	TRADE	2.4
71-74	A small number of additional PEs proposed to be transferred to this work area (with the corresponding number of work months) from the work programmes of the Working Party on the Chemical Industry and the Working Party on Steel.	TRADE	2.0
75	Regular guidance for international standardization through identification of sectors which are of interest to member Governments	WP on Standardization	0.3
76	Review of developments, prospects and problems at the international, regional and national levels	WP on Standardization	0.1
77	Measures to facilitate the harmonization of principles and practices of standardization and related activities and training	WP on Standardization	0.2
78	Measures to facilitate the implementation of standards and technical regulations, including the approval of definitions of terms and recommendations used internationally in the fields of standardization and related activities	WP on Standardization	0.2

	Programme element	PSB	Resources %
79	Promotion of international certification systems and arrangements, and measures to achieve mutual confidence in the technical competence and reliability of national conformity assessment systems	WP on Standardization	0.1
80	Aspects of metrology relevant to testing activities	WP on Standardization	0.1
G.	**ENERGY**		**(4.5)**
81	Market adaptation of the energy economies and national policies in central and eastern Europe	Committee on Sustainable Energy	0.2
82	Energy conservation developments, policies and prospects in the region	Committee on Sustainable Energy	0.2
83	Analysis of significant new developments affecting energy demand and supply in the short and medium term	Committee on Sustainable Energy	0.2
84	Interconnection of electric power networks in the region	Committee on Sustainable Energy	0.3
85	Energy Efficiency 2000	Committee on Sustainable Energy	1.0
86	Energy efficiency standards	Committee on Sustainable Energy	0.4
87	Work in the field of gas	Working Party on Gas	1.25
88	Market adaptation of the coal sector, and work in the field of clean coal and thermal power	Committee on Sustainable Energy	0.95
H.	**TIMBER**		**(3.0)**
89	Collection and dissemination of information on trends in the sector, including publication of the Timber Bulletin	Timber Committee	0.6
90	Forest Resource Assessment 2000 (temperate and boreal forests)	TC	0.5
91	Contribution to implementation of resolutions H1 and H2 of the Helsinki Ministerial Conference, concerning sustainable forest management and conservation of biodiversity (to 1999)	TC	0.4
92	Review of markets for forest products and short term forecasts	TC	0.4
93	Outlook for the supply and demand for timber and for non-wood goods and services	TC	0.6
94	Review of national forest policies and topical policy issues	TC	0.3
95	Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training	TC/FAO/ILO	0.2

	Programme element	PSB	Resources %
96	FAO Working Party on the Management of Mountain Watersheds (reports to EFC only) (serviced by the FAO Forestry Department)	TC	-
97	EFC/AFWC/NEFC Committee on Mediterranean Forestry Questions Silva Mediterranea (reports to EFC and two other regional forestry commissions) (serviced by the FAO Forestry Department)	TC	-
I.	**HUMAN SETTLEMENTS**		**(2.0)**
98	Country Profiles on the housing sector	CHS	0.2
99	Improvement of urban environmental performance	CHS	0.2
100	Cadastre and land registration systems	CHS	0.2
101	Strategies for the implementation of urban renewal, housing modernization policy and housing finance	CHS	0.2
102	Major trends characterizing human settlements development	CHS	0.2
103	Human settlements problems in southern Europe: sustainable development of problem areas in the historic centres in the southern European countries	CHS	0.3
104	Human settlements situation and related current trends and policies	CHS	0.2
105	Development of human settlements statistics	CHS	0.5
J.	**SPECIAL UNIT**	-	**(2.0)**
	Seminars on issues in the fields of Engineering industries and automation, science and technology, renewable sources of energy and electric power. Other topics to be identified	Commission	2.0

ANNEX III

NEW STRUCTURE OF PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY ORGANS *


Group of Experts on the Programme of Work
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Committee on Environmental Policy
Inland Transport Committee
Conference of European Statisticians
Committee on Sustainable Energy
Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development
Timber Committee
Committee on Human Settlements

* As indicated in Chapter III A.1 of the Plan of Action, the PSBs are invited to review the status of their related bodies in order to make the ECE intergovernmental structure as a whole more homogeneous and transparent.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/ECE/1347/Corr.1
14 February 1997

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH and
FRENCH

PROPERTY OF
CITY

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Fifty-second session
(Provisional Agenda item 2)

PLAN OF ACTION

CORRIGENDUM

Chapter III, Section C.(b), the penultimate paragraph on page 19 of the English text should read as follows:

"The Executive Secretary is requested to prepare a note **for the fifty-second session** on the feasibility of moving the date of the annual session from April to November and on the advisability of holding the session every two years."

Chapter IV, Section (a), the third indent should read as follows:

"- to strengthen cooperation with institutions which, so far, are more of a political than a technical nature. Experience shows that, in its areas of competence, ECE is well equipped to support specific activities initiated by sub-regional groupings - inter alia, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the Central European Initiative, the Baltic Council of Ministers, **the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative**, etc. - whilst, for their part, the latter help in making the products of ECE, particularly on norms and conventions, better known;"

GE.97-20404

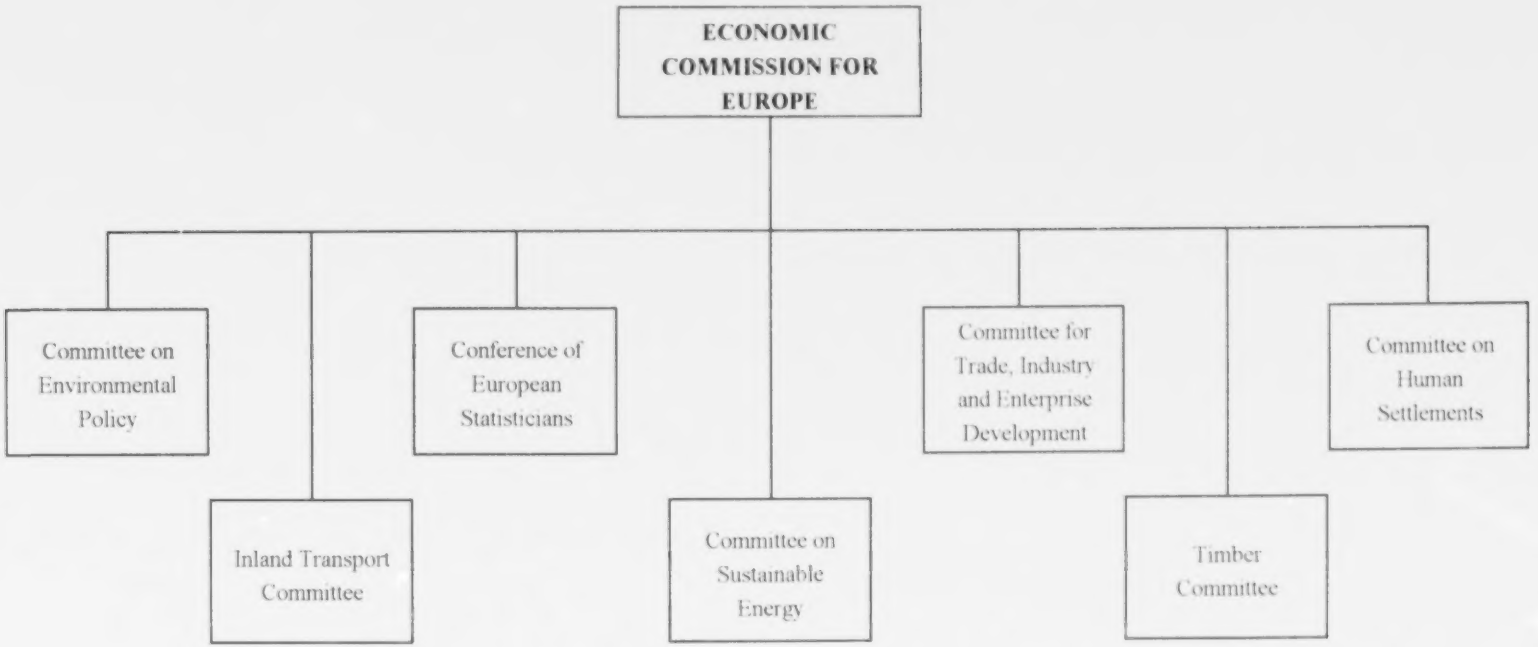
Annex II, Section F, Trade facilitation, EDIFACT and agricultural standards, should read as follows:

	Programme element	PSB	Resources %
F.	**TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**		**(15)**
	Trade Facilitation, EDIFACT and Agricultural Standards		**(7)**
65	Data elements and automatic data interchange	TRADE/CEFACT	3.1
66	International trade procedures and documentation	TRADE/CEFACT	2.9
67	Standardization of perishable produce and quality development	WP.1	1.0

Annex III should appear as follows:

ANNEX III

NEW STRUCTURE OF PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES *


ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
Committee on Environmental Policy
Inland Transport Committee
Conference of European Statisticians
Committee on Sustainable Energy
Committee for Trade, Industry and Enterprise Development
Timber Committee
Committee on Human Settlements

* As indicated in Chapter III A.1 of the Plan of Action, the PSBs are invited to review the status of their related bodies in order to make the ECE intergovernmental structure as a whole more homogeneous and transparent.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/ECE/1348
3 March 1997

ORIGINAL : ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Fifty-second session
(Provisional agenda item 3)

DIVERSIFICATION OF THE FORM AND METHODS OF THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO ASSIST THE INTEGRATION OF THE COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION INTO THE EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL ECONOMY AND ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL ADVISORY SERVICES PROGRAMME

Report by the Executive Secretary

ECE activities to assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy have three major characteristics:

- these activities are demand-driven and the increasing number of requests for workshops, seminars and advisory services reflect both the need for and the usefulness of this aspect of ECE work.
- the assistance provided to countries in transition draws from the knowledge base and experience which ECE has accumulated through its regular activities in the fields of conventions, norms, standards, policy guidelines, statistics and economic analysis. Its central aim is to enable countries in transition to use fully and benefit from these integration tools developed by ECE.
- ECE focuses its operational work on the upstream technical cooperation activities and therefore it should further seek for synergies with other institutions which have complementary roles in the same fields of cooperation.

In view of the growing number of requests from individual countries, subregional groupings or special initiatives, and the shortage of funds to respond to these requests, there is a need to explore possibilities of additional financing, along the lines delineated in para. 52 below.

PROPERTY OF

GE.97-20534

INTRODUCTION

1. The countries in transition of central and eastern Europe have made considerable progress in integrating their economies into the global market economy and the European economy by adopting market economy legislation, standards, pricing policies and privatization. It is estimated that the non-State sector's share in GDP already exceeds 50% in most of eastern Europe as compared to less than 5% in 1989. Their international links have been further strengthened by an inflow of foreign direct portfolio investments. Many new market institutions have been established, such as stock exchanges, monetary and credit instruments, and related legislation. Some policy obstacles to the restructuring of State enterprises, rehabilitation of existing plants, distribution of income and wealth, an efficient economic governance, etc. are still factors slowing the progress of reforms. There is still a growing demand for the assistance provided by the UN system.

2. The report prepared by ECE for the 51st session of the General Assembly on The integration of the economies in transition into the world economy presents the work of the UN system in providing assistance to the countries in transition, including the activities of the regional commissions.

3. The regional commissions play an important role in bringing the work of the United Nations closer to the specific development situation and concerns of countries within their respective regions. This primarily includes substantive analytical and policy-oriented work and assisting countries in the implementation and monitoring of major policies, conventions and norms adopted at the regional level. It also provides technical support to programme and project formulation at the country and sub-regional levels.

4. The present report, prepared in response to decision C (51) on diversification of forms and methods of the Commission's activities designed to assist countries of the region in transition to a market economy and their integration with the European and global economy, summarizes new developments since the last session of the Commission. The report is divided into two parts: the first deals with the diversification of forms and methods of the assistance provided the second is devoted to the ECE Advisory Services Programme (RASP).

I. DIVERSIFICATION OF THE FORMS AND METHODS OF THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO ASSIST THE INTEGRATION OF THE COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION INTO THE EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL ECONOMY

Workshops

5. Decision C (51) confirms the importance of continuing the programme of workshops and seminars on subjects of practical importance to countries in transition in the ECE region, and invites member States and international organizations to continue and increase their support for the ECE workshops series.

6. Since the programme began in May 1990, a total of 245 workshops as of April 1997 have been held within the Commission's activities designed to

assist the integration of the countries in transition into the European and global economy.

7. From the end of April 1996 to the end of April 1997, 48 workshops have been organized or are planned, of which 18 relate to energy, 11 to environment, 5 to statistics, 3 to industrial development, 3 to trade, 3 to economic analysis and population, 2 to human settlements, 2 to timber, and one to transport. This represents an increase of 33% over the previous period (36 held between 1 April 1995 and 31 March 1996).

8. 30 other workshops are planned to be held by the end of 1997. The updated list of ECE workshops may be obtained from the secretariat.

9. It should be stressed that 14 countries in transition hosted and financed a workshop, as well as 9 market economy countries. One workshop was held in a developing country. Compared to the previous period, the number of host countries has increased from 21 to 24.

10. The participation and cooperation in and support to ECE workshops by donors as well as by the UN system and international institutions, European Union, World Bank, EBRD and IFC continued throughout the reporting period.

11. The demand-driven self-financed series of ECE workshops remains the most salient feature of ECE assistance to economies in transition. It provides an open and flexible forum for interested countries to discuss the different aspects of transition in very technical terms with an explicit training component. The value of in-kind contributions of professional expertise mobilized by ECE, if properly costed, would amount to hundreds of thousands of US dollars.

Training Programmes

12. The process of consultations with training institutions has continued so as to assess the possibilities of improving the ECE role in human resource development. Cooperation with the Joint Vienna Institute (JVI) has been accepted in principle but postponed due to financial constraints of both institutions.

13. Additional consultations were held with the European Training Foundation which expressed interest in starting cooperation with ECE. However, at this stage the Foundation work is centred on the EU Tempus Programme i.e. cooperation in higher education with universities in countries in transition with emphasis on development of curricula.

14. Cooperation with the ILO/Turin Centre has been strengthened. ECE participated in the Workshop on "Management of Field Coordination for Senior Un System Representatives" held in Turin in December 1996 and devoted to transition countries in the ECE region. It provided an opportunity to present the ECE programme of assistance to economies in transition.

15. The establishment of the UN Staff College was announced in 1996, operating as a project initially for a five year period within the framework of the ILO/Turin Centre. The ECE was asked to participate in the Expert Group of the Staff College which developed an expanded programme in support of economic and social development, development management and development studies. The Expert Group designed this programme area which has three components: (1) programme in support of follow-up to global summits and global agendas, (2) an expanded programme in support of national capacity building and development management, and (3) development studies programme.

Foreign Investment Promotion

16. In response to operative paragraph 6 of decision C (51), consultations were held with the World Bank, OECD and UNCTAD related to data collection and sharing on foreign direct investment. The forty-fifth session of the Committee on the Development of Trade decided to discontinue ECE collection of statistics on foreign direct investment in countries with economies in transition. Discussions are being held on the transfer to UNCTAD of the existing ECE database.

17. Work related to investment promotion has been intensified in response to decision C (51). A Forum on the prospects for promoting foreign direct investment in transition economies will be held in Geneva in June 1997 in cooperation with FIAS of the World Bank. Substantive involvement of the World Bank and other international organizations, as well as the private sector, is expected in the follow-up activities. The World Bank will commission a study on investment promotion techniques in the region for this event.

18. The UN/ECE BOT Expert Group was established following the UN/ECE Forum on "Attracting Investment to Large Scale Infrastructure Projects in the countries of central and eastern Europe and CIS" held in Geneva in November 1995, and in response to great demand from the Governments of transition economies for advice on attracting investment in infrastructure. The Group has grown to over 40 members, not including many observers, drawn from international banks, construction, energy, water, telecom companies, law firms and universities and business schools. Experts from EBRD, UNIDO and UNCTAD are active participants. Amongst the international law firms represented are: Baker & Mckenzie; Wilde Sapte; Clifford Chance; Nabaro Nathanson and Coudert Brothers. The members of the Group contribute their time and effort on a voluntary basis. There is no direct commercial interest in the private sector's involvement in the Group. The representatives of the companies fully recognize that a consultative, bridge-building process is required between the private sector and Governments before BOT deals can be successfully concluded. Although it is delinked from their commercial interest, the activity is mutually beneficial to the private sector and member Governments. The activities of the Group included ten meetings, not including subgroup meetings, consultations with governments, cooperation with international institutions and public information activities. In view of the increasing demand it is expected that its activity will continue to grow.

19. Under the auspices of the Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industsry, work on the Guide on best investment practices is

being developed so as to be used by the policy-makers in economies in transition.

20. In November 1996, a seminar on the Role of Foreign Direct Investment in the Gas Industry was organized in Tunis by the Gas Centre. It reviewed the financing needs related to gas projects in countries in transition and southern Mediterranean countries and discussed ways to attract foreign investors.

Technical cooperation programmes and projects

21. ECE Divisions have developed some technical cooperation programmes and projects, mainly to strengthen their regular programme activities in countries in transition.

22. In the field of population, activities were continued on three projects financed by UNFPA i.e. Population Ageing (PER/92/PO2), Fertility and Family Surveys (RER/92/PO3) and International Migration (PER/92/PO1). A fourth project on Follow-up to ICPD (RER/96/PO5) was initiated in 1996 to assist transition countries in the implementation of the ICPD programme of action.

23. The regional programme in the field of statistics "Support for Development of Social Statistics" (RER/93/019) emphasized household surveys, including labour force surveys, population census, administrative statistics for social policy, information technology and dissemination of social statistics. The first stage of the project has been concluded. It is likely to continue under the sixth UNDP programming cycle.

24. The ECE has been asked to execute a project in Bosnia and Herzegovina to develop the statistical services of the entities and of the Bosnian Government. UNDP aims to have a project document agreed by the Bosnian authorities early in 1997. The ECE has drafted a programme of work and has entered into negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina. The work is being coordinated with the European Union, IMF and other potential donors.

25. UNFPA and ECE are embarking on a campaign to raise the necessary finance to undertake population censuses at the turn of the millennium in the newly independent States and some other countries in transition in the ECE region. All countries need censuses as an information base, but newly independent States, with their vast changes in migration and fertility, need them most of all and have few resources and little experience upon which to call.

26. In the field of environment, programmes on the monitoring and assessment of transboundary rivers are being developed which include eight transboundary river basins. ECE countries contribute to the Danube Recovery Programme in close cooperation with the Danube Convention Secretariat.

27. National capacity strengthening included support given to the Regional Coordinating Centres for Prevention of Industrial Accidents in Budapest and Warsaw.

28. Consultations are being held with the UNDP Regional Bureau for Eastern Europe and CIS to develop a regional programme based on the Environment for Europe process and to use ECE conventions in several future environmental programmes in the region.

29. In the framework of the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project, two funding proposals submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) totalling approximately US$ 6 million were approved by GEF for the cities of Vladimir (Russian Federation) and Gabrovo (Bulgaria). A financial contribution from the World Bank was secured for energy efficiency demonstration zones. Two new donors provided contributions to the Project which entered the last year of its second 3-year phase.

30. The technical cooperation programme "Promotion and Development of a Market-Based Gas Industry in Economies in Transition - Gas Centre" is currently supported by 22 public and private companies Bulgaria (Bulgargas), Croatia (INA), Czech Republic (CPP), France (Gaz de France), Germany (BGW, Ruhrgas, Wintershall), Hungary (MOL), Italy (ENI, SNAM), Netherlands (Gasunie), Poland (POGS), Romania (Romgaz), Russian Federation (Gazprom), Slovakia (SPP), Switzerland (SGS), Tunisia (STEG), Ukraine (Ukrgazprom), United Kingdom (British Gas), United States of America (Enron, Tenneco Gas Int./El Paso).

31. The programme of seminars and conferences has continued to focus on gas industry policy issues, reform and restructuring, legal and regulatory measures, rate-making, contracting, financial aspects and investment in transition countries.

32. Two other priorities were defined in 1996: (i) the development of a training manual designed to transfer knowledge on gas pricing issues and rate-making to countries in transition as quickly and as broadly as possible; a textbook in this respect was prepared in 1996 and the training manual itself will be published in 1997; (ii) the development of a database on key aspects of a market-based gas industry, which will cover all major gas markets in the ECE region; a CD-Rom will be produced in June 1997.

33. A number of governments and companies pledged financial and in-kind support to the Clean Coal programme. However, more commitments will have to be secured if this programme is to be successfully implemented.

34. A project has been launched to attract external resources for an assessment of best practices regarding investment promotion and enterprise development. The World Bank will assist this and related projects by mid 1997.

35. The joint ECE-FAO Forest Resource Assessment Project will use a combination of regular budget and external resources. Another project in the timber sector being developed at present is designed to promote access to trade finance and investment in the sector in the Russian Federation.

36. In the field of industry a pilot project was developed demonstrating environmental clean-up of seven selected sites polluted by chemicals in Romania, Czech Republic, Hungary, Belarus, Latvia and Slovakia.

37. The two transport projects on the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) and Trans-European Railway (TER) continued as scheduled and they provide continuous support to the ECE regular work programme in the field of transport.

Reconstruction of war-torn areas

38. Assistance to war-torn areas requires a coordinated effort by the UN System, World Bank, IMF and OECD. ECE has continued cooperation with the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) which reached agreement on a set of fundamental principles that should guide operational action in countries experiencing crisis. The strategic framework for recovery will be set up soon to which ECE could contribute, according to the inputs provided for the publication on UN capacities to assist war-torn areas.

39. During the reporting period the ECE organized two advisory and one technical mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina related to statistics, transport and gas. Assistance was provided to Croatia in formulating national strategy for sustainable environmental development. Advisory missions to Tajikistan were also conducted.

Trust Fund on Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT)

40. ECE/TFACT is a channel for receiving voluntary contributions by governments, international organizations, the business community and other interested donors aimed at assisting countries in transition. It is used to cover the costs of participation of experts from CITs in ECE workshops and expert group meetings.

41. As of 31 December 1996 the net unencumbered balance excluding programme support costs, mandatory operating reserve and interest, amounted to US$ 223,783. This amount has been earmarked by the donors for specific activities in priority areas, in particular environment, transport and trade facilitation.

Cooperation with the European Union

42. Relations with the European Commission continued to be strengthened following the visit of the Executive Secretary and missions of the Director of the Trade Division (the focal point for the contacts). There are regular consultations between the officials of the two institutions and cooperation is expanding (see document E/ECE/1349, paragraph 7).

43. The project proposal Protection and Management of Transboundary Waters Training Programmes, which involves Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and the Russian Federation, was submitted to the European Union. It was formally approved by the relevant ministries of the five countries. The first phase of

the programme concerning transboundary waters shared by Latvia-Lithuania has been approved by PHARE. Approval by TACIS is still pending.

44. The on-going cooperation with the European Commission SAVE Programme continued in the form of the joint project with Energy Efficiency 2000. The work is focused on standards for domestic appliances and labelling schemes. The European Commission continued to provide support to the case project in Poland related to the implementation of the ECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

Cooperation with the UN system

45. The UN operational activities are coordinated through the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) at which ECE is regularly represented. The issues considered referred to cooperation with UNDP and the role and functioning of the resident coordination system which should also support ECE advisory services, training, post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction, monitoring and evaluation.

46. Particular attention was given to the cooperation with UNDP, as it refers to the preparation for the 6th UNDP Programming Cycle which will include numerous changes i.e. shortening of the cycle to a three year period, greater coordination between the regional cooperation framework, country strategy notes and country programming frameworks, access by regional commissions and smaller technical agencies to new programme support facilities, as well as co-financing and cooperation among different donors.

47. The annual meeting of Resident Coordinators in the region, held in Bratislava in June 1996, was attended by the ECE so as to publicize and reinforce its operational activities within the region. In strictly operational terms, ECE will focus its work on the "upstream" technical cooperation activities using the newly established UNDP facility in support of project and programme development.

Future orientation of ECE assistance to CITs

48. In accordance with Assembly resolution 50/120 the Secretary General is preparing the report for the substantive session of ECOSOC in 1997 dealing, inter alia, with regional and sub-regional coordination. It is expected that the 1997 ECOSOC session will provide some new guidelines on the future role of the regional commissions in providing assistance to their member States.

49. The ECE intends to continue its present practice of acting catalytically to assist the recipient countries in their efforts to integrate into the European and world economy by using the knowledge base and experiences from its regular programme of work. The cooperation and networking with the UN system, European Union, other international organizations, financial institutions, sub-regional groupings and interested donors, including the business community, should be further strengthened, particularly through the newly established ECE Coordination Unit for Operational Activities.

II. ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL ADVISERS

50. In response to decision C (51), the second part of this report outlines the situation of the ECE Regional Advisory Services Programmes (RASP): its strength, problems encountered in terms of financing, past achievements and orientations for the future.

Strength of RASP

51. The strength of the RASP arises from the integration of the Regional Advisers into the work of the ECE Divisions. As technical experts, the Advisers are in a position to provide support to countries in transition on the wide range of conventions, norms, standards and other regular activities of the ECE. This support is demand-driven. It enables the requesting countries or groups of countries to participate effectively in, and benefit from, these activities, thereby facilitating their economic integration into the regional and global economy.

Financing of RASP activities

52. RASP activities are limited by the precarious financial situation of the Programme. Section 20 funds are not sufficient to respond to the needs for advisory services, as expressed by countries in transition, subregional groupings or within the framework of special initiatives. In line with decision C (51), requests to increase this budget line have been addressed to New York but they have not been answered favourably, either for 1997 or for the next biennium. Furthermore, the level of extrabudgetary funds provided by member States for technical assistance activities has remained at a low level. This situation, which could be easily explained in the past, appears to be strange now, epecially as compared to other regional commissions which have significant advisory programmes and also to UNCTAD which receives funds for assistance to countries in transition.

Matters calling for the attention of the Commission

53. In view of both the recognized usefulness of RASP and the resource constraints affecting the Programme, the Commission may wish to consider the following issues:

(a) Possibilities of increasing extra-budgetary funds for the RASP, which would be provided by donor countries or financial institutions. In particular, the Commission may wish to consider holding a special meeting of representatives from development assistance agencies of ECE member States which are currently principal donors to the countries in transition, for a brainstorming on ways to provide supplementary funding to the RASP. A trust fund or frame agreements established between these agencies and the RASP on the design and execution of bilateral agreements are examples of arrangements which could extend the benefits of ECE expertise to the maximum of member States requesting technical assistance.

(b) Possibilities for the RASP to be further involved in project formulation. Various forms of partnership could be developed with funding institutions and implementing agencies, the advisory services assisting the latter in the design of the technical, legal and policy framework for projects falling within the ECE fields of expertise.

(c) Ways to respond to requests coming from sub-regional groupings or generated by special initiatives. Subregional groupings have a small secretariat and, therefore, welcome the technical assistance which the RASP can provide. Special initiatives, which have no secretariat, also need technical assistance which enable them to use the tools of integration developed by the ECE. In both cases, this leads to increasing requests and various forms of co-financing could be explored in this respect.

Highlights of 1996 activities

54. As in previous years, the Regional Advisers have provided assistance for the following types of activity: (i) implementation of conventions, norms, standards; (ii) formulation of policy guidelines for economic restructuring and the development of market institutions and the private sector; (iii) capacity building and human resource development in technical fields; (iv) formulation of national or multi-country projects.

55. The advisory services have taken the form of consultations with national experts and policy makers in individual countries, organization of seminars and workshops at the national or subregional level, preparation of project outlines, contribution to intergovernmental meetings convened by ECE bodies as well as to meetings organized by other institutions in similar fields.

56. In 1996, 64 advisory missions, out of 88, were carried out in countries in transition. CIS countries accounted for 37 missions. Missions to developed market economies were organized for resource-raising purposes and for contributing to international conferences on development and transition issues.

57. The salient features of the RASP activities for the reporting period can be summarized as follows:

(a) Particular attention has been given to private sector development and better integration in the regional economy through, inter alia, trade facilitation, investment promotion and support to entrepreneurship;

(b) Demand for assistance was not only geared to national development and international cooperation, but also to cooperation among neighbouring regions belonging to different countries;

(c) In CIS countries, the emphasis has been put on national issues while in countries of central and eastern Europe, which have better access to the major technical assistance programmes of the European Union, the assistance has shifted in the direction of multi-country projects;

(d) The RASP has continued to provide assistance to the Central European Initiative (CEI) and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC). Working contacts with the Executive Secretariat of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) have been maintained along the lines of the Cooperation Agreement between the two secretariats, concluded in 1996;

(e) Regional Advisers have been involved into two major initiatives: (i) they have prepared a series of project outlines for the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative (SECI), launched in December 1996 to enhance regional stability through the development of economic, environmental and transborder cooperation; (ii) together with their counterpart in ESCAP, they have initiated a Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA), aimed at maximizing the benefits which this subregion can obtain from the expertise of the two Commissions. Close collaboration is being sought with UNDP at all stages of the programming and implementation of SPECA projects;

(f) Close working relations on development projects and technical assistance have been pursued with other UN institutions as well as with the European Commission, OSCE, OECD, World Bank, Council of Europe, EBRD and WTO.

58. The above-mentioned features of RASP activities are illustrated by the tables annexed to this note. Annex I outlines the advisory missions of the Regional Advisers. Annex II takes up the main activities carried out by RASP within the ECE framework. Annex III specifies the activities carried out or envisaged with subregional groupings and special initiatives. Annex IV gives an account of the contributions of the RASP to activities organized by other institutions.

Future work orientations

59. The RASP will continue to follow the above-mentioned work orientations in order to respond to the specific needs and priorities of countries in transition in all the strategic areas of work of the Commission, as defined in the ECE reform.

60. The Regional Advisers will structure their assistance in such a way as to secure tangible and useful achievements, coherence and synergy effects between their advisory missions and projects. The closest cooperation will be sought with other actors in the region, which aim at enhancing economic and environmental cooperation.

61. In particular relationships with the business community will be strengthened within a transparent framework and in compliance with the principles of neutrality and objectivity. Upon specific request, the Regional Advisers will advise on establishing business cooperation contacts, on project preparation for submission to international financing organizations and on the preparation of business plans for specific projects. For this purpose the networking and cooperation with other international, regional, governmental, non-governmental organizations, banks, business associations and specific enterprises will be intensified.

ANNEX I

ADVISORY MISSIONS OF THE RASP SINCE APRIL 1996

Areas of activities of Regional Advisers	**Division**	**Countries visited with advisory missions**
Transport	Transport	Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia, Czech Republic(2), Georgia (2), Hungary, Italy, Poland (2), Republic of Moldova, Romania (2), Russian Federation, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
Environment	Environment	Croatia (2), Czech Republic, Germany, Kazakstan, Netherlands (2), Poland, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
Trade	Trade	Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Thailand, United Kingdom (2), United States (2)
Trade Facilitation	Trade	Armenia, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Kazakstan, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, United Kingdom
Energy	Energy	Belarus (4), Finland, France, Norway, Russian Federation (6), Switzerland, Ukraine
Industry and Technology	Industry and Technology	Austria, Hungary (3), Latvia, Russian Federation (2), Slovenia, United States
Development Issues and Policies	Office of the Executive Secretary	Germany, Kazakstan, Russian Federation (3), Tajikistan (2)

ANNEX II

RASP ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ECE

AREAS OF WORK	TOPICS	FORMS	COVERAGE
TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION	. Private investment in infrastructure	Consultative meeting between ECE BOT group and Hungarian Government, September 1996.	Hungary
	. Building negotiations skills for BOT	Preparation of a Platform for Negotiations and organization of a workshop in Croatia.	Croatia
	. Investors' Guides	Preparation and dissemination, through Internet, of computerized versions of these guides	Georgia; Republic of Moldova; Tajikistan (under preparation); Republic of Tatarstan and the Region of Krasnoyarsk in the Russian Federation (under preparation).
	. Creating viable real estate markets	Contribution to a seminar organized under the aegis of W.P5 (Geneva, June 1996).	Central and east European, CIS countries
	. Export Finance Support	Contribution to a Consultation meeting organized jointly between ECE and ITC (Geneva, October 1996)	Central and east European, CIS countries.

AREAS OF WORK	TOPICS	FORMS	COVERAGE
TRADE FACILITATION	. Trade Facilitation standards in international transactions	Dissemination of these standards.	Global via Internet; particular attention to countries in transition.
	. Trade Facilitation Information Exchange (TRAFIX)	Network on Internet, jointly developed with ESCAP and several other trade facilitation bodies	Global via Internet; particular attention to countries in transition.
	. UN/EDIFACT	2 workshops jointly organized with ESCAP (Moscow and Yerevan, October 1996)	Russian Federation and Armenia
SMEs DEVELOPMENT	. Programme for the development of SMEs	Networking of National SME focal points; collection of information on SME legislation and statistics; guides on business plan preparation; guide on financing of SME creation.	Countries in transition
		Training course on business planning (Moscow, May 1996)	Russian Federation
	. Promotion of entrepreneurship	Seminar on women in business, jointly with UNIDO (Moscow, April 1996)	Russian Federation
		Workshop on cross-border cooperation in the Carpathian Euro-region (Debrecen, Hungary, November 1996)	Regions of Hungary, Ukraine, Romania, Slovakia and Poland

AREAS OF WORK	TOPICS	FORMS	COVERAGE
TRANSPORT	. Transport infrastructure development	Contribution to Working Party on Road Transport sessions on road infrastructure issues; contribution to Working Party on Rail Transport session on rail infrastructure issues; contribution to Inland Transport Committee on transport infrastructure developments; organization of and contribution to rail, road and financing workshops and seminars. Training workshop on	Central and east European countries Member countries of central asia
ENVIRONMENT	. Management of transboundary waters . Significance and implementation of ECE environmental conventions in Central Asian Republics	Multicountry project Training workshop (Almaty, Kazakstan, December 1996)	Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Russian Federation Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakstan, Azerbaijan

AREAS OF WORK	TOPICS	FORMS	COVERAGE
ENERGY	. Financial schemes for energy projects	Seminar (Paris, March 1996)	CIS countries
	. Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones	Projects, workshops	Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Russian Federation, Ukraine
	. Promotion of energy efficiency related trade and investment	Programmes of training courses; workshops; studies; manuals; guides to investors.	Belarus, Russian Federation
		Data collection on market research; energy information, laws, norms and regulations	Countries in transition
	. Conversion of military sites to the production of energy-saving devices	Manual and training courses	Belarus
	. Project "Present situation and prospects for the fuel and energy complex in CIS for the identification of technical assistance requirements in the energy field"	A study	CIS countries, ECE region

ANNEX III

RASP ACTIVITES FOR SUBEGIONAL GROUPINGS AND SPECIAL INITIATIVES

SUBREGIONAL GROUPINGS/ SPECIAL INITIATIVES	ACTIVITIES	COVERAGE
Black Sea Economic Cooperation	Implementation of transport facilitation conventions; study on energy situation in the BSEC region.	BSEC member countries
Central European Initiative (CEI)	Meeting of ministers responsible for SMEs; transport infrastucture development activities.	CEI members countries
Southeast European Cooperation Initiative (SECI)	Transport infrastructure - identification of bottlenecks along main international corridors; energy efficiency demonstration zones network; interconnection of natural gas networks; policies to promote SMEs through microcredit and credit guarantee schemes; Danube recovery programme; trade facilitation - actions to overcome operational difficulties.	SECI participating countries
Joint ECE/ESCAP Special Programme for Economies of Central Asia (SPECA)	Provisionally foreseen activites: Promoting interregional cooperation within the regions of ECE and ESCAP; transport infrastructure development and coordination; SME development; conversion of military enterprises; promotion of foreign direct investment; energy industry restructuring, market adaptation and energy efficiency demonstration zones; trade facilitation; environmental legislation and management of transborder water system.	ECE member countries of Central Asia

ANNEX IV

RASP CONTRIBUTION TO ACTIVITIES ORGANIZED BY OTHER INSTITUTIONS

ACTIVITIES	ORGANIZING INSTITUTIONS	COVERAGE
INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION		
International Conference "Economic Forum of the Regions of Europe" (Dortmund, Germany, June 1996)	Council of Europe, City of Dortmund, Foundation for the Economy and Sustainable Development of the Regions of Europe (Geneva)	Council of Europe and ECE member countries and their regions
International Conference "Economic Forum of the Regions of Europe for Economic Cooperation, Security and Sustainable Development" (Moscow, November 1996)	Government and Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Government of Moscow, Council of Europe, Economic Forum of the Regions (Moscow) and Foundation for the Economy and Sustainable Development of the Regions of Europe (Geneva)	Council of Europe and ECE member countries and their regions
INVESTMENT PROMOTION		
International Investment Conference (Krasnoyarsk, Russian Federation)	Administration of Krasnoyarsk Region, Russian Federation	Region of Krasnoyarsk
International Forum on Building an Investment Promotion Capability in Transition Economies (Washington D.C., USA, June 1996)	FIAS of the World Bank	Countries in transition

ACTIVITIES	ORGANIZING INSTITUTIONS	COVERAGE
TRADE FACILITATION		
Participation in the first ministerial conference (Singapore, November 1996); included informal discussions on future WTO study of trade facilitation	WTO	Global
Fourth ESCAP Trade Facilitation Network Meeting (New Delhi, October 1996)	ESCAP	Asian and Pacific countries
SMEs DEVELOPMENT		
Microcredit Summit	"Educational Fund", with the support of the World Bank and UN organizations	Global
Advisory Group Meeting on Entrepreneurship and Small Firms in CITs (Visograd, Hungary, October, 1996)	OECD	Countries in transition
Colloquium on "Promoting SMEs in CEECs" (Visograd, Hungary, November, 1996)	Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe	Regions of central and east European countries
Series of seminars on "The role of SMEs in economy and practical lessons learnt by transition countries in promotion of entrepreneurship" (February 1997, Minsk)	International Finance Corporation	Belarus

ACTIVITIES	ORGANIZING INSTITUTIONS	COVERAGE
TRANSPORT		
Series of meetings on the establishment of transport corridors	G-24 of the European Union	Central, east and south European countries
ENVIRONMENT		
Seminar on Promoting Sustainable Environmental Development (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, October 1996)	OSCE	Aral Sea Region
Workshop on Cleaner Production within the Framework of the Congress on Energy and Environment (Opatija, Croatia, October 1996)	University of Rijeka (Croatia) and Ljubljana (Slovenia)	Croatia, Slovenia
ENERGY		
International seminar "Financial schemes for energy project implementation" (Paris, France)	OECD	Global
Congress "Economic Reforms of New Russia: Development of Small and Untraditional Energetics" (Moscow, Russian Federation)	Government of the Russian Federation	Russian Federation

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/ECE/1349
21 February 1997

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH/FRENCH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Fifty-second session
(Provisional agenda item 4 (c))

COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS AND SUBREGIONAL GROUPINGS ACTIVE IN THE ECE REGION

Note by the Executive Secretary

1996 has been marked by efforts of the secretariat to multiply contacts in order to promote the use of the instruments (conventions, norms, standards and guidelines) developed in ECE and to improve working relations with ECE partners.

This involves substantial time and resources. To ensure the success of these efforts, it is expected that, as requested by the Plan of Action, government representatives in PSBs and other forums will act in order to draw the full benefit of the expertise and specific assets of each institution.

The present report gives a short overview of the ECE activities related to cooperation and partnership with the United Nations and other institutions active in the ECE region, in particular OECD, Council of Europe and EBRD. One part of the report refers to the cooperation with OSCE in response to decision D (51) by providing information on ECE cooperation with the OSCE Economic Forum and the Global Common Security Model for the twenty-first century. Cooperation in the Mediterranean is also highlighted in response to decision E (51). Proposals developed with the ECE Mediterranean member States are briefly presented while ECE activities in the subregion are shown in the Annex.

New developments in ECE cooperation with subregional groupings include cooperation with BSEC, CEI and CIS. ECE relationships with the business community in response to decision B (51) are based on the ECE Plan of Action (E/ECE/1347). Cooperation with NGOs has been further expanded.

GE.97-20457 (E)

INTRODUCTION

1. Chapters IV and V of the Plan of Action set out the principles and mechanisms involved in relations with institutions and bodies active in the region and with businesses and non-governmental organizations. During implementation of the Plan in 1997, special emphasis will be put on the responsibilities of subsidiary bodies and their branches; the secretariat will offer them support in fulfilling their tasks. Wherever possible the secretariat will use electronic means of communication in its relations with its partners; some meetings will, however, be necessary - to explain the relevance of Commission activities to the problems under consideration, to design joint activities, and to avoid embarking on projects that duplicate the work of the Commission. If member countries' delegations on the various bodies are kept informed of what ECE is doing, there is less risk of duplication and cooperation becomes easier.

2. Relations with institutions working in Europe were expanded in 1996, both in order to make ECE activities, conventions and standards more widely known and applied, and to spread the load better. Besides the special attention which has been paid to the economies in transition since the beginning of the decade, care is now being taken to be more responsive to the expectations of the Mediterranean countries and to reflect their accomplishments in publications. The secretariat has also entered into relations with local and regional authorities with the aim of informing them about conventions and standards of particular interest to them in relations with their counterparts in neighbouring countries.

3. Cooperation with OSCE has been stepped up, and there have been very encouraging results from the cooperation between ECE and ESCAP, UNEP and WHO. In each case, ECE expertise has been acknowledged and ECE work has been used in furtherance of these organizations' objectives.

4. The present report provides a short overview of ECE cooperation with the United Nations system and other international institutions or regional groupings as well as with the business community and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

A. COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

5. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and agencies, including the regional commissions, has been pursued through the established mechanisms for the overall coordination of United Nations activities. It has covered different areas of work, such as the follow-up to major United Nations conferences, sustainable development, alleviation of poverty, the post-conflict reconstruction efforts as well as operational activities. The ECE provided inputs for the system-wide efforts to increase cooperation with the Bretton-Woods Institutions.

6. It is worth noting the close cooperation with ESCAP in developing joint projects for Central Asia and its interest in benefitting from ECE experience or achievements in conventions or norms and standards related to environment, trade facilitation and transport. Similarly UNEP and WHO intend to build on

the ongoing work on Persistent Organic Pollutants in the framework of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution to prepare a global convention.

7. The European Commission is very active in the intergovernmental contacts of ECE. Its participation in the reform process has been important and it is expected that in the future EC will participate actively in all the bodies retained after the reform. Regular consultations are held with the Directors-General covering the field of ECE activities. Different contacts about the SECI initiative as well as the participation of the ECE representative in a meeting organized in the framework of the Royaumont Process will facilitate synergies and avoid duplication. Projects submitted for the PHARE and TACIS are under consideration. It is hoped that the legal advisors of both institutions will recognize the possibilities for ECE to participate in tender procedures, as is the case for UNCTAD.

8. Cooperation with OECD continued with emphasis on statistics and data collection, trade and investment, regulatory aspects of road transport, organization of transport and environment conferences in Vancouver and Vienna, energy and environment. The Executive Secretary visited OECD in order to explore with the newly appointed OECD Secretary-General the modalities of future cooperation with particular reference to OECD extension of membership and activities in favour of countries in transition.

9. Cooperation with the Council of Europe was marked by the Conference on Progress of Economic Reform in Central and Eastern Europe which took place in Warsaw in May 1996. Organized jointly by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the ECE, it was the third meeting of this kind, following those held in Budapest in 1990 and Helsinki in 1993. The ECE publications analysing the reform process in countries in transition were largely used as a basis for discussion and, as outlined by the Warsaw Declaration adopted at the Conference, the participants welcomed the contribution of the Council of Europe and of the ECE in building bridges of understanding across the continent and helping to establish the structures and legislative foundations required for a market-oriented economy. Furthermore, the Sub-Committee on International Economic Relations of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe met with the ECE in December 1996 in Geneva, for an exchange of views in the fields of economic analysis, environment and transport.

10. Particular attention was paid to reinforcing cooperation links with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in areas where activities of both organizations are mutually reinforcing. The EBRD support was particularly relevant for the ECE ongoing programmes on energy efficiency, trade finance, and small and medium-sized enterprises.

B. COOPERATION WITH OSCE

11. Decision D (51) renewed the ECE mandate to strengthen cooperation with OSCE in the economic dimension within existing resources. In fulfilling this

mandate an additional effort was made to help the OSCE secretariat with the conceptual and programming stage of OSCE economic activities. To this effect the Executive Secretary and staff members visited and exchanged views with the OSCE secretariat and the representative of the Chairman-in-Office well in advance of the Economic Forum and of the seminars to which ECE contributed.

12. Substantive contributions were provided to the OSCE Economic Forum where ECE also assumed responsibilities of moderator and rapporteur. Preliminary discussions have taken place with the representatives of the Chairman-in-Office on the ECE contribution to the 1997 Economic Forum on the topic of "Law and Market Economy".

13. ECE participated in the OSCE Seminar on the Framework for Private Sector Development for International Investments and Industrial Cooperation held in Minsk, Belarus in September 1996 and contributed three papers related to public-private partnership in assisting transition countries to attract international investments with specific attention to infrastructure as well as on the importance of good corporate governance on making privatization effective.

14. ECE also participated and contributed to the OSCE Seminar on Promoting Sustainable Environmental Development in the Aral Sea Region held in October 1996 in Tashkent.

15. The Executive Secretary attended the OSCE Lisbon Summit in December 1996, which confirmed that OSCE would rely on better equipped institutions, in particular in the economic field. Contributions from ECE were praised on several occasions.

16. ECE stands ready to contribute to the reflection on the economic aspects of the security model for the twenty-first century. The Executive Secretary referred to it in the statement he circulated in Lisbon as well as in the intersecretariat meeting (United Nations, OSCE, Council of Europe). A paper has been prepared which underlines the necessity to base any early warning indicator system on an in-depth analysis of the mix of the economic, political, cultural and social events which can trigger tension or conflicts. The security model may also integrate environmental conventions and norms agreed upon by the Environment for Europe process, as stipulated by the Declaration of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly resulting from its meeting held in Stockholm in July 1996 which considered the Common Global Security Model for Europe of the twenty-first century.

C. COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

17. In response to decision E (51) which reflected the growing awareness of the need to strengthen cooperation in the Mediterranean, the ECE paid particular attention in its regular work to Mediterranean countries, providing more information on their evolution and taking into account their specific concerns. In addition, ECE carried out a series of consultations with interested member States and relevant institutions. Particular emphasis was

given to the consultations with the European Union and with those ECE member States which qualify for assistance by the European Union under the follow-up terms of the Euromediterranean Conference in Barcelona, namely Cyprus, Israel and Malta.

18. An overview of all ECE activities of particular interest to or precisely focused on the Mediterranean countries is annexed in tabular form.

19. The following proposals which may be supported by the European Union were discussed with the Mediterranean countries:

- A Seminar on quality assurance and metrology, organized by the Cyprus Organization for Standards and Control of Quality and ECE;
- A Workshop on transboundary air pollution, to be held in Malta during 1997;
- A Workshop on solar applications and energy efficiency in building design and town planning;
- A mechanism for setting up small and medium-sized enterprises in south Mediterranean countries.

20. The ECE and the ECA secretariats are preparing jointly the report on the activities carried out in the framework of the Europe/Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar which has to be submitted to the 1997 session of the Economic and Social Council (E/1995/46).

D. COOPERATION WITH SUB-REGIONAL GROUPINGS

21. Cooperation with sub-regional groupings continued taking into account the points raised in the Note by the Executive Secretary to the fifty-first session of the Commission (E/ECE/1334).

(i) Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC)

22. The ECE continued its cooperation and support to BSEC. The Executive Secretary has forwarded to the BSEC Chairman-in-Office from the Russian Federation some pragmatic ideas on possibilities of strengthening cooperation in areas of common interest which include energy, transport, environment, trade and investment. In response the BSEC secretariat has supplied a list of studies, seminars or workshops to which a contribution from ECE would be appreciated. It is being studied by the relevant ECE divisions.

23. The ECE study on "BSEC in Energy-Momentum and Opportunities" will be updated, and assistance provided in high voltage energy grid interconnections.

24. The ECE internationally legally binding agreements and conventions provide a framework for the development of international road, rail, inland waterway and combined transport in the BSEC region. The ECE contributed to the documentation for the Conference of the Ministers of Transport of BSEC and CEI countries held in Sofia in November 1996 and took an active part in the meeting.

25. During 1996 the ECE attended the Seventh and Eighth Meetings of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of BSEC member States held in Bucharest and Moscow. It also supported the work of the BSEC Business Council, which could open up new possibilities for future interaction with the business community.

(ii) Central European Initiative (CEI)

26. The Executive Secretary attended the Meeting of Heads of Governments of CEI held in Graz in November 1996 at which the Republic of Moldova was admitted as a full member of CEI. The Heads of Governments expressed interest in initiating systematic cooperation between the CEI and ECE in order to implement projects of common interest, especially in the areas of environment, transport and small and medium-sized enterprises.

27. The Heads of Governments welcomed the establishment of a system of project groups and CEI project coordinators in order to prepare bankable projects. To this end ECE sent its comments on the transport projects to the newly established CEI Centre for Information and Documentation in Trieste. It should be noted that the EBRD will cooperate closely with CEI on the elaboration of the project. An on-line information network will be established with EBRD, the World Bank and CEI Chambers of Commerce with the financial support of the Italian Government. The ECE will monitor the process and further explore the possibilities of cooperation.

(iii) Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

28. Working contacts have been maintained with the Executive Secretariat of the Commonwealth of Independent States on the basis of the Cooperation Agreement concluded in May 1996, which envisages consultations, exchange of information and documentation and reciprocal participation at meetings.

29. Agreement was reached with the Interstate Economic Committee of the Economic Union of CIS to share experience and develop cooperation related to ECE conventions, norms and standards, particularly in the field of transport, environment and energy.

30. It has been agreed in principle that other concrete activities will be explored and developed through the ECE advisory services.

(iv) Other regional groupings

31. Contacts were maintained with other groupings as required, however no new cooperation arrangements have been negotiated.

E. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ECE AND THE NGOs AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY

ECE's relationship with the business community

32. ECE has continued to enhanced its links with the business community pursuant to decision B (51). The private sector is involved in many of the Commission's activities in such areas as norms and standards setting, the environment and human settlements, the "Environment for Europe" process, trade facilitation, East-West trade and investment promotion, transport regulations,

industrial cooperation, energy, the activities of the Gas Centre and the Energy Efficiency 2000 Project. The business community actively participates in seminars, round tables, workshops and study tours organized under ECE auspices which provide opportunities for business contacts.

33. The private sector provided direct financial support for the implementation of relevant ECE programmes through contributions to respective trust funds. ECE working groups that have developed ideas and launched initiatives which are financed by the private sector itself have proved to be resource efficient. For example, under the auspices of the Working Party on International Contract Practices in Industry, the ECE's Group of Legal Experts, composed of private sector experts, has been constituted to draft model Guidelines of Build Operate Transfer (BOT) and other new project finance techniques for central and eastern Europe. The Group consists of over 30 members drawn from international banks, construction companies, utilities, law firms and universities and business schools.

34. Established in December 1996, the ECE Advisory Group on Real Estate has two objectives: (i) to provide legal, institutional, management and financial advice to countries to improve the environment for real estate investments; and (ii) to identify within countries investment opportunities in the real estate sector in order to stimulate interest from foreign investors.

35. In order to promote assistance to economies in transition, ECE advisory services regularly provide information to countries on financial engineering in cooperation with financial institutions. ECE has developed business guides to assist countries in transition.

36. To diversify its contacts with the private sector, better to grasp the difficulties that entrepreneurs face in the transition process, and also to promote ECE instruments, the secretariat has participated in or prepared substantive contributions for the Davos Economic Forum, Economic Forum in Crans Montana and Malente Symposium. In this spirit, ECE has also recently concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute for Global Leadership (IGL) set up by the Forum of Crans Montana.

37. Consultations took place with the International Chamber of Commerce as well as with the Junior Chamber International, an international organization gathering together young businessmen. The ECE participated in the Round Table Conference "The European Security Model: the View of Representatives of Private Business", organized by the International Vienna Council (IVC) in Vienna in October 1996 at the Bank of Austria. The possible establishment of a Business Advisory Council within the framework of the OSCE was discussed at the Round Table.

38. One of the highlights of the Commission's fifty-first session was the convening of a Round Table Conference on Sustainable Industrial Development. The business community, represented by chief executive officers of five large multinational companies active in central and eastern Europe, met with political leaders from three countries in transition. Chaired by Percy Barnevik, Chairman of Asea Brown Boveri (ABB), the panellists, in a lively, well attended discussion identified the weak points in the transition process, debated problems of international trade, foreign direct investment,

local training, the development of human resources and developed concrete solutions to overcome these problems and to speed up the transition process. According to the participants in the Round Table, dialogue between governments and the business community is crucial for reforms to become stable and permanent in the transition economies and they recommended that the ECE could serve as a forum to facilitate such exchanges. The proceedings are being published.

39. Continuing and expanding the Commission's cooperation with the private sector will require the ECE to develop activities which address the concerns of the business community. Future actions to achieve this objective were discussed throughout the ECE restructuring process and are stipulated in the Plan of Action (E/ECE/1347).

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

40. ECE enjoys broad and fruitful cooperative relations with NGOs and other actors of civil society particularly academic institutions and professional associations. NGOs regularly participate in the Commission's activities by attending its meetings, seminars and workshops. They offer expert opinions and contribute to the decision-making process in their areas of interest.

41. In order to facilitate inter-agency coordination and develop mechanisms for enhancing NGO and business community involvement in its activities, the ECE participates in meetings organized by the NGO Liaison Office at Geneva and the UNOG Working Group on NGO Relations. ECE also participates in the CONGO Sub-Committee on Women and interacts with the ECE/NGO Working Group on Women related to their programmes in the ECE region. Contributions were also made through the established coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system on how to further improve interaction with the NGO community.

ANNEX

AREA OF WORK	REGIONAL ACTIVITIES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES	ACTIVITIES SPECIFICALLY FOCUSED ON MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES	INFORMATION STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO THE SUB-MEDITERRANEAN REGION
Economic analysis		In the ECE International Migration Bulletin the most recent migration flows from east and south Mediterranean countries to Southern Europe and other European countries are reported. Recent issues of the Bulletin have featured immigration to Italy and Spain.	ECE International Migration Bulletin, semi-annual publication.
Statistics	Within the statistical analysis of the ECE region, more information on Mediterranean countries has been provided.		
Trade	Initiated contacts with the European Commission regarding the possible development of cooperation for the benefit of Mediterranean countries. Proposal on mechanism for enterprise creation in transition economies of the Central European Initiative (CEI) for Italian funding.	Planning for a workshop on conformity assessment and quality development to be held in Cyprus in October 1997 addressed to all Mediterranean rim countries. Seminar organized by Cyprus Organization for Standards and Control of Quality and ECE on quality assurance and metrology.	
Agriculture and timber	Seminar on Forests, Fire and Global Change was held in Shushenskoye (Russian Federation), August 1996, under the auspices of Joint FAO/ECE/ILO Committee on Forest Technology, Management and Training.	In the forestry/timber field this activity is held under the FAO statutory body, *Silva Mediterranea*, which reports to the FAO Commission for Europe, Africa and the Near East. A close partnership exists between the Timber Section and the EC DG VI in the field of forest fire statistics.	

AREA OF WORK	REGIONAL ACTIVITIES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES	ACTIVITIES SPECIFICALLY FOCUSED ON MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES	INFORMATION STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO THE SUB-MEDITERRANEAN REGION
Environment and Human settlements	Contribution to the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), June 1996 on urban and regional planning, housing, tourism and environment by the ECE workshop on sustainable water supply and management in cities, Istanbul, October 1996. ECE/CSEA workshop on energy and the environment for sustainable prosperity, Opatija, Croatia, October 1996.	Workshop on Long-range transboundary air pollution to be held in Malta. Meeting on problem areas in the historic centres of the Mediterranean and sustainable development, Greece, May 97, followed by a study tour on the same subject in Egypt. ECE/FAO workshop on water pollution and protection in agricultural practice, Zagreb, March 1996.	Contribution of Meeting of Experts on Human Settlements Problems in Southern Europe to Habitat II (ECE/HBP/98).
Transport	Inland Transport Committee (ITC) promotes international transport agreements so that all Mediterranean countries would adhere to them. ITC has established a short list of workshops to promote cooperation in the Mediterranean area, such as on legislation and international agreements in transport and financing of inland transport infrastructures.	ITC requested the Working Party on Transport Trends and Economics to ensure a deeper cooperation with the Mediterranean countries. ECE and ECA secretariats are preparing a report on the activities carried out in the framework of the Europe/Africa permanent link through the straits of Gibraltar, to be submitted to the 1997 ECOSOC session. Workshop on Financing Transport Infrastructures in the Mediterranean Region is being organized and expected to be held in 1997.	
Energy	Questionnaire on foreign investments in the gas industry.	Proposal on Solar Applications and Energy Efficiency in Building Design and Town Planning. Seminar on the role of foreign direct investment in the gas industry in economies in transition and southern Mediterranean countries, Tunis, November 1996.	Manual for practising architects and engineers: Energy efficiency design and related computer programme.

AREA OF WORK	REGIONAL ACTIVITIES OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES	ACTIVITIES SPECIFICALLY FOCUSED ON MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES	INFORMATION STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO THE SUB-MEDITERRANEAN REGION
Industry and Technology	Working Party on the Chemical Industry, Seminar on Ecological Application of Innovative Membrane Technology in the Chemical Industry, Italy, May 1996.	Workshop on the development of SMEs, Milan, Italy, June 1996. Proposal on mechanisms for setting up SMEs in south Mediterranean countries.	Updating 1994 Directory of Chemical Enterprises in the Mediterranean European Region.